

RECREATION

Formerly THE PLAYGROUND

— October, 1931 —

ADULT RECREATION

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Adults at Play

By Lynn Rohrbough

Community Centers — A Vital Force

Social Recreation as a Joy Giving Activity

By Viola P. Armstrong

Music in Community Centers

By Augustus D. Zanzig

Spooks' Trysting Place

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Recreation for Adults



Courtesy Playground Commission, San Francisco

Music is one of the great channels through which the adult finds his recreation. There are games, indoor and outdoor, swimming, hiking, and all the more active forms of recreation. There is drama, handcraft, reading or any of the great variety of hobbies the pursuit of which makes a man more interesting to himself. There is social recreation, the experience of

sharing with others, and there is the joy of discovering beauty and making it one's own. And, if a man would measure values as intangible as spiritual satisfactions, "those recreation activities are most important which most completely command the individual so that he loses himself in them and gives all that he has and is to them."

Nineteen Recreation Principles

Every child needs to be exposed to the growth-giving activities that have brought satisfaction through the ages,—to tramping, swimming, dancing, skating, ball games; to singing, playing musical instruments; to dramatic activities; to making things with the hands; to caring for pets, to helping plants grow, to getting to know nature, to trying simple scientific experiments; to trying to make things beautiful; to learning the joy the team-play, of comradeship in doing things with others.

Every child needs to discover which are the special activities which give him personal satisfaction and joy. In these activities he should be helped to develop the skills essential to supreme enjoyment throughout life.

Every child should choose certain activities, certain hobbies that he can keep up as long as he lives so that there may be no "dull" stretches.

Every man should have certain forms of recreation which require little space and which can be fitted into small fragments of time.

Every man needs to know well a certain limited number of games which he himself likes for use indoors and outdoors so that there will never be an occasion when he cannot think of anything to do.

Every man should be helped to form the habit of finding pleasure in reading.

Most men should know at least a few songs with good music so that they may sing when they feel like it.

Every man should be helped to discover some form of beauty which he can really make his own—whether it be beauty of line, form, color, or sound.

Man thrives best in the sunlight. Every man should be helped to form habits of being active, of breathing deeply in the sunlit outdoor air.

Since living and not business is the end of life our cities should be planned from the point of view of living as well as of business and industry. Sunlight, air, open spaces, parks, playgrounds, in abundant measure are essentials to any living that is to give permanent joy and satisfaction.

It is of the greatest importance that every person be exposed to rhythm because without rhythm man is incomplete and tires himself and bores others.

About one year in every ten of a man's life is spent in eating. It is of fundamental importance that this one-tenth of a man's life shall be so lit up by play of mind upon mind that eating shall not be a hurried chore but an opportunity for comradeship and for growth for the whole man.

Rest, repose, reflection, contemplation are in themselves a form of recreation and ought never to be crowded out by more active play.

Those recreation activities are most important which most completely command the individual so that he loses himself in them and gives all that he has and is to them.

Ultimate satisfaction in recreation comes only through one's own achievement, of some kind.

The form of one's recreation as an adult, often, though not always, should be such as to use in part powers unused in the rest of one's life.

A man is successful in his recreation life in so far as the forms of activity he chooses create a play spirit, a humor, which to some extent pervades all his working hours, helping him to find enjoyment constantly in the little events of life.

A happy play of childhood is essential to normal growth. Normal men and women are most likely to grow from the children who have played well and happily. Normal men more easily continue normal as they keep up childhood habit of play.

That children and men and women may be more likely to live this kind of life, experience shows there is usually need for community action:

Every community needs a person, and an unpaid committee or board charged with thinking, planning, and working to provide opportunity for the best possible use of the leisure hours of men, women, and children.

Community recreation programs should continue throughout the year.

Support of community recreation programs should be through tax funds under some department of the local government.

Every community needs playgrounds, parks, and recreation centers just as every city and town needs streets and sewers.

Every community should provide opportunity for its children when they leave school to continue the musical and dramatic and other specialized recreation activities which they have enjoyed during school days.

Community recreation programs should allow for a broad range of tastes and interests and varying degrees of mental and physical energy.

Every community needs persons trained to lead in recreation just as much as it needs persons trained in education.

Satisfying recreation, whether for the individual or for the community, involves real planning.

HOWARD BRAUCHER.

Community Centers – A Vital Force



The community center at Waverly, Pa., meets educational as well as recreational needs

PEOPLE need to salvage the creative spirit. So much is done for us by electric switches that hands may be weak appendages in a few hundred years. And what is created is so much in the spirit of fierce competition that there is no doing for the joy of producing. There is also the intensive advertising which persuades a woman to buy a cheap, unlovely something for the home and then pace the deck thinking up something to do while she might have happily created something beautiful. This is a poor substitute for a happy emotional life.

That is some of the "why" of a public school community center. The center offers many advantages. If there is any way in which character can be built it is in face-to-face meeting of problems in our individual and group life. We must learn happy, helpful adjustment to group life, family, organization and community. We certainly need to stiffen moral spines.

Organization

The community centers are operated by an executive group—a committee or council. This

An emphasis on human values vitalizes these extracts from the report of Chicago's centers.

group tries to encourage interest in activities people may want and to plan the financing of them. The program is usually in a process of development for some time. In this rapidly changing world it is hard to set up activities which will be permanent except in general character. But many people *do* find interests. The fact that there is so much freedom makes the center most valuable. Whether the community expresses itself often depends on the executive body. A dictatorial group will kill the center. They must have an understanding of the neighborhood conditions and interest and initiative enough to suggest the right things.

Aim and Purpose

A community center is not a night school. While it is educational it is not at all the same thing. We do not want the work conducted as a day school with the same atmosphere. It could not be done that way. People must find their own interests and usually can't find them quickly. The work is informal. It includes non-academic things and interest in streets, transportation and such.

The community center is also a place where petty local quarrelsomeness can be minimized. Four and five years ago the situation in several

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centers was very difficult because of fussy folks with narrow personal interests. Now things are different because of the community center work. But it took time and patience from somebody.

No number of kinds of organizations can be substituted for the family relationship or destroy the need for interest in common. The community center is the place where the whole family can have each an individual interest which is a part of a big interest in common if they understand the work.

Program

In some places or in some group one must be very careful not to label anything education. Some folks are so sure of themselves, and others are like the girl recently married who was advised to attend the cooking class. "Oh gee, it's too late now—I'm married."

Classes and clubs are formed in subjects of interest; lectures, courses of study and training are given, and there are dramatics, concerts and other entertainment. Meetings of local organizations are held in the building and help is given in neighborhood needs. The only test of the success of a community center is whether it is an expression of the people.

Among the new work the most interesting has been the original work in sculpture and pottery. Fortunately we were able to place in four centers an artist who knows how to draw out and develop native genius—not teach. The groups

are—one Mexican (men), one highly intelligent and one primitive colored, and children from a Norwegian orphanage. The results in the Mexican group were astonishing. Never were they told what to make. There were figures with fine firm lines and decorative objects much like Aztec art.

In the highly intelligent Negro group work was produced which is much like the native African art. In the primitive group the objects are crude, but showed real development after the first month. There is an artist in the Norwegian group, a young man whose delicate work shows the background of generations of civilization.

I am happy to report development of drama and

of a higher standard. People are usually willing to use a poor grade of play if they know no other. They want to get expensive realistic scenery because they see movies instead of simple suitable stage settings beautifully lighted. In one center the young people wanted to do something besides "gym" but the council couldn't pay a leader. A drama leader of a good type was sent out paid by the Board of Education. In two weeks that group of young women and men were organized into a well-running dramatic club. They gave a creditable five minutes from a good farce at the final program.

One of the new groups showing talent is a colored club at the Willard named the Richard B. Harrison Dramatic Club. This name brought from Harrison a photograph. In the corner was written "To Gawd's Children from de Lord—Green Pastures."

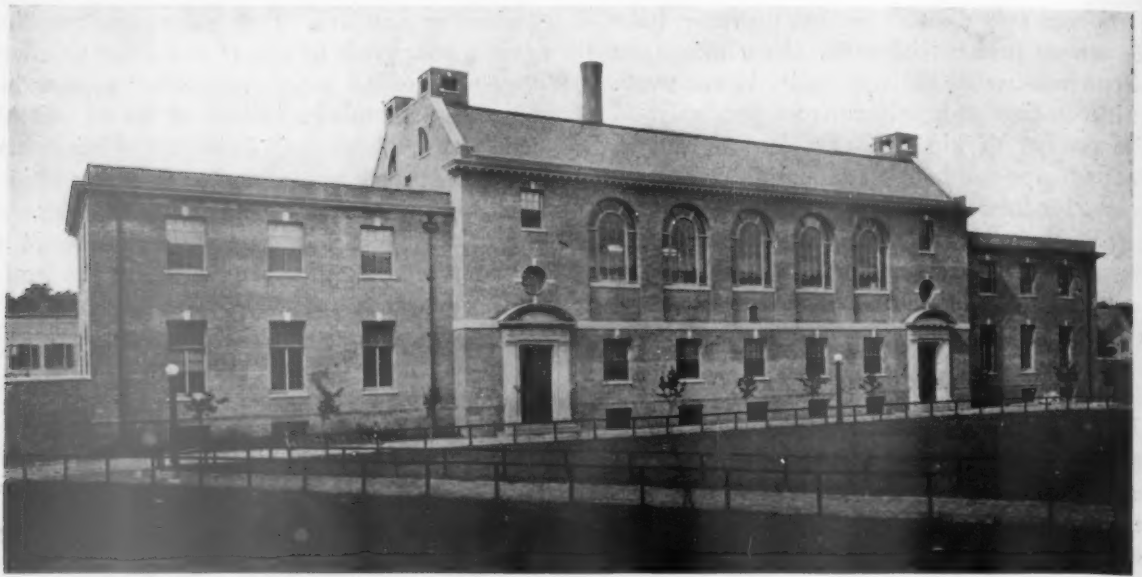
Some charming things have been done by children's drama classes. But listen to this from a talented child who had a leading part: "My parents aren't coming. They don't care. They said they'd rather go to a talkie."

Our first community center branch of the public library is growing. There is an increase in distribution and reading with a purpose. The Children's Library Club organized by the librarian meets in her home regularly to discuss what they read. A second branch was opened in the Spalding Community Center for the physically handicapped.

The program in the Spalding center gives the adult cripples an opportunity to get the advantages of gym, swimming and physiotherapy they would not otherwise have without too great expense. Pottery and photography are in the program, too. As employment and training for vocations are a big problem in this group, much attention is given to it.

One of the most enthusiastic groups was Lovett Class in Parliamentary Law and Public Speaking. They had a superior teacher. Some of the women came a long way to this class.

"Dad's night" by the Sea Scouts was one of the most appealing programs at the Locke Center. The boys had the help of the American Legion



Drum and Bugle Corps in splendid uniforms. This post, like several, uses the center as a meeting place.

The McCosh class in public speaking conducted a discussion on the value of adult education. This center has one of the clay modeling classes.

The Prussing is a meeting place for a group of teachers who are taking special training from their art supervisor. The drama work deserves special mention, as do the orchestra and children's art craft classes.

The Armstrong has work for children after school. Other centers would like to do this if the Armstrong precedent may be followed. This year, in addition to drama and dancing, there was a kite-making class. The kites gave opportunity for originality in design and color. They were beautiful and had to fly. That contest ended the season.

The young folks at Hegewisch—a section far from all else—are still showing the business men and other adults uninterested that they can carry on alone. Their self-trained basketball team won the heavyweight championship trophy in the Community Center Basketball League. For lack of funds they bring in only a paid referee for their games. They needed a score board in the gymnasium on game nights. What to do? The young president of the community center committee found a much broken table. The team fixed up the top, painted and added fixtures, and there was an elegant score board! More use has been made of the building this year by older adult

Manchester, Conn., has a community building which is a combined social center and school. Equipped with facilities of all kinds, it serves varied interests.

groups for meetings, rehearsals and programs. Their drama leader deserves great praise for endurance and interest.

Music groups are increasing. It is with joy we announce more orchestras and bands and singers. Of course, our Colman Chorus (colored) is better than ever. Nothing pleased me more than the groups of boy singers at several centers.

Other interesting work with children has been growing this year. The Mary Lyon Departmental Club is developing civic interest through its activities. The Ryder children whose mothers are in the art craft and other classes are under the leadership of a kindergartner. They made fifty Easter cards for residents of Oak Forest and a scrap book for a children's ward in the County Hospital. The Burley Children's Theater continues the fine work it has done in the past. The new addition to the stage will be a great help. This center had a class in reviews of current literature and has found real leadership in drama within its own group this winter.

The Ridge Center—(Morgan Park)—found its lecture course more popular than ever. This included Cornelia Otis Skinner, Angelo Patri and Admiral Richard Byrd. Their Community Center Council represents all of the recognized organizations and the churches. It is an important factor in the community life of the Ridge.

Roosevelt Center had two series of lectures this year. Dr. Edward Schoolman, the well known lecturer, gave a course in psychology for the layman. Mr. William H. Holly gave a series

of talks on current events which were followed by discussion. The response in attendance and interest warrants further development by the Forum Committee next year.

Edison Park has developed more class work and revived community interest this year. Their non-partisan meeting heard all candidates for alderman.

The work done by the sewing, tailoring and millinery classes was astonishing. The Sawyer had a most attractive fashion show with a whole procession of women wearing dresses and suits they had made in class. Some of them had with them their little children wearing adorable little dresses and coats mother had made.

Colman, Garfield and Hayes (all colored) included much work in various kinds of fancy and practical stitchery and rugs. The Garfield (the colored district having poorest living conditions) had a splendid display of rugs.

At Willard nearly seventy women graduated from the regular courses in sewing, tailoring or millinery. The group—all dressed in clothes and hats they had made were an encouraging picture. It was a pleasure to give them their certificates and watch the interest and response of the audience. Mention must be made of the groups of young colored women—several Normal College graduates. Their leader uses the activities as a means of developing the interests, making some of them less selfish and narrow.

The McCosh Center had the only tournament in indoor tennis. Attractive little watch fob medals were given. In the McCosh and Hayes, many middle-aged and elderly colored folks learned to read and write. The writing exhibited at the centers and the Federation exhibit was proof of their courage and achievement.

The Von Humboldt (operated by the Deborah Boys Club) developed a boys' chorus and orchestra in no time. It was a joy to hear their music which was of a high standard.

The Falconer has the only class in aviation. They bought a motor from a large plane and the men in that class do real work there.

The workers at Garfield have a hard job and

deserve much encouragement for what they have done. The lives of the children are unorganized and tall colored lads—age unknown—wander about without work. Crowding and lack of work are everywhere. This is also true of the workers at Garfield where lack of interests causes a high rate of delinquency. Sometimes the woodwork room is running to capacity and some nights interest lags, but always some are helped. One of the people showing talent in clay modeling is a deaf mute colored boy. He was so happy.

Norwood Park still reaps the benefit of its \$8,000 worth of fine pictures and fills many needs in what is really village life.

Peterson has greatly broadened the point of



Bowling is popular in the Dalton, Mass., community house, as it is everywhere!

view of the people. They have the satisfaction of seeing children grow up in their center and take their places in community life.

It gave me a real thrill to give certificates to the Polish group who learned English this year at Russell Square Center. Four married couples attended regularly together. Young women who came to this country recently made rapid progress. Men whose native intelligence and personality had made them popular received much applause as they came to the platform. The forty-four who received certificates were only those who attended regularly. There were many more who went as they could. The whole final program given by women and men of the neighborhood meant something to the audience. The cooking teacher sent by the gas company has had fine response here.

At the Thorp, by the steel mills, the Mexican group stands out among the several nationalities,

The desire on the part of adults not only to make things, but to create something of beauty and permanence, is resulting in the enrichment of the handcraft program in the community centers of many cities



nearly all of the classes in English being made up of Mexican men. The unusual sculpture is original work by them. The artist does not teach more than the technique of handling the clay. These men sing together happily at the close of the evening. They sing mostly lovely Spanish songs but have learned two in English.

The Community Center Players (from several centers) gave a program at Palos Park. Besides a one-act play the director gave a lecture demonstration on stagecraft and lighting. They have given performances at several community centers this year.

There is no part of the work of community centers which is more valuable than that for young men. Small homes force folks out of them. Youth wants something to do and a suitable place for the activity. Many, many young men had had no work for months and no decent clothes. They appreciate the centers and begged that they be open longer.

Problem

Many teachers say that no young children should be allowed in the community centers at night. In a study of the out of school hours of 500 young children these facts are significant. Three hundred attended community centers; 57 remained indoors evenings; not one mother or father played with their children.

It is a fine theory that we can observe sort of a curfew for children by which they will all stay at home nights to study and go to bed early. It

doesn't work. The children are not indoors nights in a high per cent of homes. Some parents do not care where they are. Others feel that night is the only opportunity for their children to develop interest in leisure time activities. It is gratifying to see the young folks who have grown up in the center during the past four or six years now conducting their own

group work and taking places on the Community Center Council. There are children only eight years of age in the Montefiore, Parental and other such schools.

One of the most difficult problems is the attitude of people toward the school. Fine men and women often tell me that it was difficult to make up their minds to come to the school center because of the unpleasant memories of some of their school days.

Investigation of the few reports of breakage with malice shows little ground for the reports. There is very little trouble of this kind during the center season, and in some places a large amount in the day school. We have been able to change the attitude of the groups in a number of centers from a desire to destroy to a desire to build. We have a huge task in this still and for years to come, I fear. In his Kingdom of "Do As Thou Wilt" Rabelais excluded all of those not equal to living under such freedom as he planned.

A few centers have had a real gang problem. In one they did not belong to the school group. They were rough in dress and manner and were annoying for several weeks. At another the group was worse. They are the gang which makes a practice of hurting the helpless. They made the front page by taking a crippled man to a lonely spot and torturing him. Some of these young men live in the district and the others are from a section not far away. It is to the credit of that center that they finally won over some of the leaders. All of the work with boys is especially

interesting and important. We always hear of the wrong things boys do. But it is difficult to make some folks think a leader for anything but "gym" is worth paying for.

We must begin when the children are very young. I am happy to say that at least one group of young parents is taking up my suggestion that there be a sort of kindergarten training class for them at the center next year. They will find it great fun, too. I would like to see something of the sort part of the high school course. Why is it so much more necessary to learn how to handle the automobile than the children?

We meet fathers who are keen for suggestions on psychology of selling and mothers who want recipes for food, but just let anybody who knows child psychology try to make one suggestion about the way the mother is pushing her daughter away or the father is trying to make "hard boiled" the son who has a fine sensitive temperament!—We hope to make the community center a place where parents can learn to understand their children—especially the emotional life.

Workers with the right ideas and personalities and ability to use them are not easy to find. They cannot use the methods that unfortunately so often are used with day school children. In one center a young woman and man (brother and sister) were showing talent in pottery and were coming out of their shells of timidity. They spoke almost no English but were trying to learn. A young day school teacher who is on the center staff didn't like their way of trying to learn and so "told them what I thought of them as I do the children." Of course they never came back.

During the second year of this department (five years ago) representatives of the community cen-

ters decided to organize the Federation of Public School Community Centers. Inasmuch as parliamentarians and well known lawyers were on the committee the constitution and by-laws were properly drawn with the necessary preambles and wherefores. Each center is allowed three delegates. The directors are the officers of the Federation and representatives of the Chicago Urban League, the Chicago Woman's Aid and the Adult Education Council—organizations which are city-wide and interested in all community centers. This has proved a valuable organization.

In past years the Federation has had many speakers at well attended monthly meetings. Now there is a dinner meeting with a speaker in the autumn and an annual meeting just before centers close. Other meetings are on call. At the annual meeting there is election of officers and the program is drama, music and dancing from the various centers. There is an exhibit of handwork from the centers. There is always a large attendance and interest is keen right up to the 11:00 P. M. closing number. Except for those taking part no children attend the meeting.

Each year these programs grow better in standard and skill. This year it was most creditable and included drama by adult groups, chorus of adults and of children, orchestra of children and young folks, dancing by children and adults. Although only a few minutes were allowed for a number, the work held the enthusiastic audience. The exhibit was truly our best yet. There was sewing, tailoring, millinery, stitchery, painting, dyeing, sculpture, pottery, pen and pencil sketches, rugs of several kinds, lamp shades, composition books by foreign born and colored people learning to read and write, kites, reed work and woodwork.

A Civil Engineer Urges More Community Centers

Lawrence D. Bell, civil engineer of Babylon, New York, commenting on the broad conception of the leisure time field presented by Dr. L. P. Jacks and other speakers at the Recreation Congress in Atlantic City, urges an extension of community centers as an effective means in helping to solve the problem of public recreation. At the present time, Mr. Bell feels, the major emphasis is being laid on the provision of parks and playgrounds, and while this is of fundamental importance he fears the recreation movement may be failing to develop in the community center a means of public recreation of equal value and importance.

Mr. Bell suggests that a community center should be housed in a building which will provide: (1) A well equipped gymnasium which could be used by boys and girls in turn as well as the older members of the community. (2) Meeting rooms for the clubs of the girls and boys. (3) An auditorium for debating, literary and dramatic clubs, lectures and concerts. (4) A library and reading room. (5) Playrooms for children. (6) A banquet room and kitchen facilities for the use of clubs and other organizations. (7) A ballroom, and (8) A comfortable lobby and lounging room with a radio and piano where strangers and members of the community meet.

Social Recreation as A Joy Giving Activity

By Viola P. Armstrong
Director of Social Recreation
Detroit Department of Recreation

DURING recent years we have been experimenting a great deal in Detroit in the field of social recreation, and we are finding that it answers one of the very greatest of recreational needs.

Let us consider for a moment Webster's definition of "social" and "recreation":

Social—of or pertaining to companionship; that which has to do with human intercourse.

Recreation—refreshment of the strength and spirit after toil; diversion; act of being recreated.

The real significance then of social recreation is that it not only should recreate, that is, provide true refreshment of the strength and spirit, but it needs to furnish, at the same time, companionship. A social recreation program which accomplishes this is truly making a real contribution to happiness.

Professor Hayden of Chicago University said in an article in the October, 1930, *Survey Graphic*, "There are four things that people need: (1)



Social recreation promotes fellowship in friendly human groups.

Opportunity for creative expression; (2) Fellowship in friendly human groups—a sense of belonging to; (3) Sense of at-homeness in the universe; (4) Sharing with the best heritage of the race—a knowledge and appreciation of history and training

that mankind has discovered."

Sharing Beauty

We are surrounded by beauty at all times—beauty that is ours for the taking—yet how many of us pass it by with eyes that see not and ears that hear not. How much more eagerly many people accept the worthless things in life, passing by that which is fine because they have not yet learned to distinguish between those things that are worth while and those things which are not. And here we recreation leaders can be trail blazers—keeping the paths always open to the best things that can be had, and, like the Pied Piper, making these paths so fascinating that everyone is eager

to drop whatever he has been doing and follow where they lead.

Everyone has greater leisure than ever before, but how few really interesting and worth while things can be enjoyed alone! How many of us, forced to see a lovely picture, a beautiful bit of scenery or a gorgeous sunset alone, have realized that sharing it with another would greatly have enhanced its beauty. Sharing is a very necessary part of life.

An artist shares his experiences whether he paints a picture, plays a piece of music or writes a bit of poetry. Art, then, is essentially social, because it originates in the need of the artist to share. The fine arts both rest and inspire, therefore they are recreative as well as social.

Folk Dancing and Social Recreation

One of the arts that can be successfully and easily fitted into an evening of social recreation and to the true social value of which many of us are only just awakening, is folk dancing.

"Dancing in its wholesome and beautiful aspects is as truly the storehouse of the emotions and social experiences of the race as any other art."^{*}

We must be careful, however, not to confuse folk dancing with the modern couple dance. The latter is almost entirely a commercialized product of this age of restlessness, jazz and machinery, while the former has grown for centuries out of the very life of the people. Folk dances are a group activity, and when presented and participated in in the true spirit, cannot fail to develop cooperation and sociability. Folk dances and folk games, play party games and our old-fashioned square and contra dances are largely group activities requiring varying numbers of people. They are, in reality, merely game patterns set to music and have grown out of the play life of many nations through many centuries. They are more truly social than the dancing which we call social dancing. The dancers are constantly changing places and usually dancing, not with their partners alone, but with everyone else in the group as well. This brings about a spirit of fun and social fellowship. Each person is no longer just an individual, but a very definite part of the whole group and must be ready to do his part. Thus each one contributes to the good time of all.

The music and tunes, as well as the words, where there are any, have also come from the people themselves. They, too, are a rehearsal of

the experiences of these simple folk to whom we are indebted for them. Many of the tunes are truly lovely and grow lovelier as we learn to know them better.

Folk dances and folk games, which sometimes are quite active, are not so great a physical strain as many of our running games and relays. As an international activity they may prove quite valuable. Through them is aroused a greater understanding and appreciation of the people who have given them to us. One cannot dance the folk dances nor sing the folk songs of any people without gaining some insight into the life of these people. We become comrades as we share these rich experiences of others.

The Play Party

Play party games may also form a happy part of any social evening. As mixers they cannot be surpassed. The play party is a distinct type of entertainment which grew up in communities where the people were dependent on their own resources. Not even a piano or a fiddle was necessary to the success of the party. These games are really very simple folk dances with the players furnishing their own music by singing or clapping as they go through the various figures. They are usually played in groups of almost any size and very often they do not even require partners. Whenever they do the changing of partners is so frequent that the greatest number of social contacts are made possible. Everyone contributes his share to both the music and the action. This develops cooperation and sociability.

Among the games that we have found most valuable additions to the program of any mixed adult group are *Brown Eyed Mary*, *Push the Business On*, *Susan Brown*, *Bingo*, *Needle's Eye*, *The Old Brass Wagon*, *Golden Slippers* and *Skip to My Lou*. However, there are many others, characteristic of the community from which they come.

The play party does not claim to have originated in America, though it comes to us from our early settlers who brought with them into this new country of America the peculiar traditions and customs of the old world. Some of them may be recognized as Scotch, Irish and German, but the majority as English. *The Play Party in Indiana*, by Leah Wolford, published by the Indiana Historical Commission, Indianapolis, will give one a vivid picture of this early type of social recreation, much of which we have found worthy of reviving. Lynn Rohrbough's 'Handy 11' also has a most

^{*}Fine Arts in Recreation—Handy Kit 17.

interesting chapter on the play party and contains many of the choicest of these games.

A well planned evening with marches, mixers, active games, relays, folk games, folk dances or play party games, along with periods for in-between or "chair" games and stunts, bringing the evening to a climax with a group game, song or dance, in which all participate, has never failed in sending everyone home refreshed, happy and better able to meet the problems of tomorrow.

If you want to get a real thrill, put on an evening of this type with a group of Parent-Teachers or any other so-called "grown-ups" who have forgotten the word play as applied to themselves. You will hear many a "Why, I haven't had such a good time since I can remember," "I feel like a boy again," "I haven't laughed so hard in years," "Will you ever forget Mr. So-and-So?" "This is the best tonic I've ever taken for tired nerves, it beats medicine." One Jewish mother told me not long ago that she had never had as much fun before in her life. Think of being able to offer anyone that much fun and so easily!

Why have they had such a good time and why do they feel younger? They have forgotten themselves in play! They have become again the children they are at heart, forgetting that they are dignified business men and women with many responsibilities and worries, or that they have done a big washing and seem to be physically tired out. Some who come to such an evening are apparently so fatigued that at first they do not believe they can participate. Then they are drawn in by the fun and almost invariably they forget to get out and they take part the entire evening. After an hour or so of games, singing and folk dances they are completely rested, not only mentally and spiritually, but even physically. Our program should *entice* people to play, not *force* them, and we should make it easier and less embarrassing to get in than to stay out. To lose one's self completely in any worth while activity is a real thrill.

Do not hesitate to use this type of program for most any adult group. You will be surprised and happy at the results. Any dull evening can be made brighter through them and even our younger generation are enthusiastic once they have learned the real fun they produce. Here is a test of real leadership.

To share these folk things with others, however, one should first have acquired not only the letter but the spirit as well. We cannot just *do* them, we must also *feel* them as well, and one who cannot feel them will be unable to offer them

to others. We cannot share with others something we do not possess ourselves.

Popular Activities

Some of the folk dances and games that have proved most useful in creating the social feeling and interest of large mixed groups are:

The Wheat (Czecho Slovakia)
The Thief (Norway)
Ach Ja! (Germany)
Come let us be Joyful (Germany)
Gustaf's Toast (Sweden)
Roselille (Denmark)
Miatelitz (Russia)
Seven Steps (Austria)
John Brown (America)
Captain Jinks (America)
Sicilian Circle (America)

These are all so very simple that any group may become familiar with them within a very few moments.

The fact that we are suggesting the more general use of folk games and dances in our adult social recreation does not mean that it is the only type of program that tends to socialize and furnish companionship. Any worth while activity may be "social." Table game parties are a pleasant change for those who usually want to play bridge, and equally enjoyable for those who do not. Used progressively, they bring about sociability and friendliness, which are not nearly so marked in bridge and other games where the recreation has been forgotten in the desire to win. Bridge is one of our finest games, but it does not contain as much of the social element as many of our other games.

Singing is another of our very best socializers. Most people like to sing whether they can sing well or not, and singing together does establish a very happy fellowship and informality. However, the type of songs we choose decides quite definitely the real value of the activity.

The Social Leader

Just a few words to the social leader who is to accomplish all this:

There are many qualifications necessary for a successful leader—all or many of which most recreation workers are thoroughly familiar with. However, there are two which are often neglected or entirely forgotten. Because they seem to play such an important part in any kind of leadership, but especially so in social recreation leadership, they need to be emphasized.

The first is enthusiasm.

Many people confuse enthusiasm with what is usually called "pep." They really have little in common. Genuine enthusiasm is a spiritual something that comes from within and radiates to the entire group. It is the result of a sincere love and faith in recreation and is shown in one's eyes, one's smile, one's whole attitude.

While "pep" is physical and will antagonize and bore people, enthusiasm acts in quite a different manner. It is a contagious sort of thing that reaches out and embraces everyone nearby. It is more than manner—it is an inner force which when rightly used can do a great deal toward spreading the joy of recreation anywhere and any time.

The second thing that seems so essential is a "love of people." You will need a combination of these two if you expect to have real social recreation leadership. Your group is much more important than your game. It is wiser to build your program around your group than to try to make the group fit the program. We must constantly study our groups and strive always to arouse and hold their interest and enthusiasm.

Why should we as leaders be always eager to grow in our work? Is it not that we may give more? And is this giving not a gathering of everything useful and passing it on, sharing it

"We believe that man is essentially a social being. His highest creative experience cannot find its most significant meaning apart from the social group. As a creative spirit, man seeks fellowship with other creative spirits; he feels a covenant relation with them. At his best he feels a sense of kinship with all human beings, and an appreciation of the creation of the ages.

"We desire to use recreation to lead ourselves and others into a joyous creative experience. We are eager to share the folk experiences and traditions of all peoples and to build for ourselves an attitude toward life as a whole, which will make for satisfactions which abide."

Quotation from recreation creed adopted at social recreation institute, Walden Woods, Michigan, May, 1931.

with all with whom we can? We gather—then we sow. Scatter about these seeds of recreation, and see how quickly they grow up and in turn produce more seeds and happiness.

And so we must constantly be busy with our gathering,—new ideas, new games, new understanding—anything that will help to make recreation more truly recreative. We cannot con-

stantly give out unless we are ever taking in, nor can we sit idle waiting for new things to come to us. It means real work, but we cannot be successful recreation leaders without a great deal of effort. And yet it should be a labor of joy—this planting of happiness—and at no time has it seemed a more worthy undertaking than at this time of economic stress.

Never miss an opportunity to learn a new folk dance, a new song, a new playground game or activity. No good idea is ever lost, nor need it be unused. It always means happiness for someone.

Let us not regard recreation as a means of earning a living, but as a real privilege that has been given us.

Prepare your program carefully and meet your group confidently and joyously and you will not fail to radiate a something that will make whatever recreation you offer delightfully contagious.

Recreation as Big as Life Itself

RECREATION, if defined rightly, is as big as life itself. It is the abundant life or will serve to make life more abundant, richer, fuller, and more complete.

Leaders are necessary, but they must know how far to reach and how to bring out the rest, as everybody is a potential leader in a social recreation conference.

I have always wanted to discover just how far certain social barriers could be broken down by recreation; just how much real brotherhood could be developed—that is, lasting and permanent brotherhood, the kind that carries over from the group in which you play to other groups; the bar-

rier of race and class; the common denominator.

When we have made people have a good time, our job is only half done. We must also do our best to change society so that there will be a minimum of drudgery and a maximum of creativity. For creation and achievement are the purpose in life.

In order to get society to change from a competitive struggle to a cooperative and helpful group, we must get small groups of people living together, playing together, cooperating together.—From Impressions of the Social Recreation Conference at Walden Woods by George Burcham, Evanston, Illinois, "Kit 26."

Adults

at

Play

*By Lynn Rohrbough
Social Recreation Union
Delaware, Ohio*



Playing games out-of-doors adds much to their enjoyment and value

AT a Farm Bureau meeting where fifty people were crowded into a five-room country home, a dozen assorted puzzles were provided for the old fellows who could not be budged loose from their chairs to play games, take part in a stunt, or dance the Virginia Reel in the kitchen. Several already knew how to take the twisted nails apart; they showed others and called for the hard puzzles, and by refreshment time practically all, old and young, were in a huddle trying to work out a puzzle. Working them out was an excuse for the talking which so many adults, especially rural adults, enjoy as a recreation.

Making Things

Somewhat along the same line, a surprising interest developed out of a game class at the adult leadership conference at Camp Ohio this summer. A simple workbench with a few tools had been set up in the recreation tent for a demonstration in making game equipment. A county agent took a piece of wire and made up a clever spiral puzzle which was put on exhibit. First one and then another would be reminded of some old puzzle of wire, string, or wood, which he had known years ago, and by the end of the week we had a collection of some fifteen puzzle games, ranging from the old heart and bead to the Devil's Needle, and a 45 peg solitaire board which the father of

one of the leaders had worked months in solving, years before. Scores of copies of the games were made by leaders to take home, and several were heard to remark that it was the first time in years that they had had a chance to handle tools. It was real recreation in the best sense of the word. At least three men became so enthusiastic about the possibilities of the project that they later used the games as a craft project in county 4-H Club camps.

A Quarter Century's Enjoyment

It is quite obvious that adults like an element of permanence in their recreation, in striking contrast to the fluttering interest of adolescents. Last Spring we invited in a number of middle aged and elderly couples who knew old fashioned dancing, to meet Miss Elizabeth Burchenal who happened to be visiting in our town. In the group were four couples who had danced together regularly for more than twenty-five years.

At the end of the evening someone asked "Billy" Foster, our neighbor, who had "called," if he knew any more dances in addition to the twenty changes we had danced, and in checking up it was discovered that the group knew more than fifty different figures. Anyone looking for social recreation of the highest order would give a small

Mr. Rohrbough, whose "Kit" and other publications on social recreation are so widely and favorably known, tells here of adults as he has watched them at play. They like a variety of things, he has found. Puzzles, making things, dancing, archery, play party games, are a few of the activities which are always popular.

fortune to acquire a charming and completely enjoyable activity, such as these old folk dances, good for a lifetime.

Reviving an Ancient Craft

A year ago last May, Foster Jones spent a couple of days with us at Lake Geneva making archery tackle and showing us the rudiments of shooting arrows with bows. He described the interest which had grown into an archery club among the young people of his church in Detroit, and his enthusiasm was so contagious that several of the group have spent a great deal of time since then on it. For example, Owen Geer, a member of the staff of the Methodist Board of Education, made a workshop in his basement, and in the past fifteen months has made up a beautiful collection of bows in lemonwood, hickory, cedar, and osage-orange, not to mention a bundle of shafts large enough to outfit a large class. This summer, as he traveled from Summer School to Camp Conference, the back of his car was filled with tackle and tools. Arriving, he finds a little corner and sets up shop to have a good time. Of course, quite accidentally, there are always a few who don't care for the high pressure competitive recreation program, and drift around to help him out. He has planted outposts of archery enthusiasts behind him in all parts of the country, thus demonstrating the value of finding a recreational activity of sufficient depth and breadth that you can introduce it to others.

Grown-up Youngsters

One can never foretell what childish thing an adult group is going to enjoy the most. To illustrate, at the scheduled party of the Four-State Club Leaders' Conference at Pokagon Park on a sweltering evening in August, we decided to "break the ice" with some old pioneer "play-party" games. The social room had been pre-empted by a visiting Rotary Ladies' Night and we had to get along with a cleared space in the lobby. By the time we had romped through "Three Old Maids" and "Skip to My Lou," all of our group and several visitors were in the circle, hot weather temporarily forgotten. Old favorites were called out, one following another: "Pig in the Parlor," "Somebody Waiting," "Jolly Miller," "Pass One Window," "Turn the Glasses Over," "Bingo," and "Brown Eyed Mary," until there was no time left for the adult program which had

been planned. Meanwhile the Rotarians had finished their party and stood around four deep for half an hour watching the fun, which continued through all the figures of the Virginia Reel, danced to play-party tunes "Old Brass Wagon" and "Down the River." The next night a group was heard playing some of the games waist deep in the lake.

Social Recreation as a By-product

The men's club of a tiny rural church near Swanton, Ohio, under the leadership of the Rev. and Mrs. C. I. Lau, have turned an abandoned farm into a rural community center. They have named it "Dream Haven" and have laid out play courts, picnic grounds, and a vesper hill, all under volunteer leadership. Observing the group of men who were responsible for a second very successful community play day this July with 300 rural people participating, it was quite evident, it seemed to me, that the "workers" had shared a deeper social recreational experience than was possible to those who merely came to "play." Building play equipment, planning activities and directing the good times of others is work to the professional recreation leader, but properly motivated and appreciated, it is real recreation to volunteers.

General Observations

Recreationally, adults are doubtless the most ill-adjusted age group of modern society. Many never learned to play. Others specialized, or followed popular fads, and now find themselves stranded and bored with the passing of adolescent interests. Many no longer respond to outside leadership as children or youths do. Friends are not so easily made after thirty is passed.

Yet on the whole adults have the same ability to acquire new interests and skills that belong to earlier life. Normal adults are hungry for recognition, for satisfying membership in a congenial group. They like to achieve and have recognition. Most grown-ups like to make beautiful or interesting things with their hands. Given a chance, they like to use their minds; they like to acquire and share ideas. They can find pleasure in simple, elemental things that leave sophisticated adolescents cold. Perhaps the chief objective of leadership for adult groups should be to make leadership unnecessary as quickly as possible, by developing a taste and ability to find one's own recreations free from external stimulus.

Principles Involved in Planning a Party

By Mary J. Breen

Successful parties do not "just grow" like Topsy! There is a real art about party planning and definite principles must be followed.

KING WINTER, a snow man of cotton, is ready to issue his yearly summons to his mid-winter Dance Carnival. The workers, a handful of boys and girls, look over their handiwork with justifiable self pride. In an almost unbelievably short time they have transformed a bare school gymnasium into an Ice Queen's Palace. Everywhere there are flakes of snow dust, glittering water crystals, pine trees, and sprigs of evergreen. From the rafters hang icicle stalactites and cotton puff balls. Around the balcony railings prance haughty cardboard reindeers, the contribution of the Manual Training Class. Over all shimmers a chaste blue light in which dance snowflakes and sparkling ice crystals. This magic transformation is a spectacle of ingenuity and inventiveness. It reveals an unrestrained play of imagination. In their enthusiasm these boys and girls utilized the most significant successful party essentials,—those high spots which leaders are so apt to forget.

Creating a state of readiness is the most important of party principles. Intriguing invitations and attractive decorations are the most subtle of all ice breakers. Who can resist the coquettish dame who bids him to a St. Valentine's party, the paper bonnet suggesting it is time to primp for an Easter social, or the gumdrop nosegay announcing playtime out-of-doors? Book stores, stationery departments and party sections of

magazines reveal treasure houses of ideas for novel invitations. Decorations need never be lavish or extravagant. Any room can be easily transformed with gaily patterned screens, rugs and cushions. One leader, realizing the effect of color on the emotions, refuses to use a drab piece of string where a colored one can be used. Another suggests an old costume party where there are limited opportunities for introducing color into the background. Still another uses ingenious decorative devices to relieve restraint and to develop that "party-frame-of-mind." Everyone remembers the "Chamber of Horrors" at a Hallowe'en party. This leader makes use of the same idea by designing appropriate party entrances,—a tepee to an Indian party, a cage for an animal fair, a tent for a circus, and an Igloo for an Eskimo social.

Parties should provide variety from routine work-a-day life. So-called "games parties" should not be overdone. One woman confessed amazement on hearing the boys and girls who attended her New Year's party ask if they might sit around the fire and just sing and tell stories.

Another showed even greater consternation when invited by a group of youngsters to a good old time "Fruit Party" with Jack-O-Lanterns. Japanese tea parties, newspaper socials, foolish Bridge parties, old fashioned husking bees, afford limitless opportunities for novelty and appeal.

FOR HALLOWE'EN

October brings Hallowe'en. Are you making your plans for the annual party? Write the National Recreation Association for "Fun for Hallowe'en," a new bulletin just issued containing suggestions for a party, and for two amusing dramatic stunts. \$.25.

Suggestions for novel socials are published from time to time by the *Woman's Home Companion*, the *Ladies Home Journal* and similar magazines. *Ten Recreational Parties* published by the Woman's Press, New York City, contains directions for such picturesque parties as an Italian Street Scene, a Gypsy Scene, a Peanut Party and a Doll Party. Any number of books on parties are now available for the conscientious hostess.

No matter how unusual a party, however, the program for it must always be well planned. Most leaders know the most important fundamentals of program building. The following are a few reminders:

1. Start a party as soon as the first guest arrives. Conversational games in which participation is informal are particularly appropriate.
2. Use mixers to socialize and unify the group. Some of the best of the old favorites are grand marches, *Rig-a-jig-jig*, *Shake and Run*, *Hello and Goodbye*.
3. Arrange games in an easy sequence according to the forms of playing. Lead naturally and without confusion from circle to line games.
4. Vary programs so that they include quiet games, simple dramatic stunts, musical nonsense,

rhymes and stunt songs. An interlude of such activities provides relaxation after the climax has been reached in a program of physical activities.

5. Close the program with a "bang." Never let a party fade out. Nothing is so deadly as having people stand around awkwardly waiting for an opportunity to say good-night. Remember the "lets-do-it-again" feeling brings people back a second time. Games like *Good-night, Ladies*, and carefully planned songs leading from popular to old familiar tunes leave no doubt but that "good friends must part."

Successful parties evoke pleasurable anticipation instead of apathy, joyousness instead of mere boisterousness, and genuine happiness instead of half-hearted amusement. To lead parties in which there is so much *joie-de-vivre*, leaders must acquire early the ability to work easily with people, a sense of humor, an enthusiasm that is contagious and vitalizing, and the ability to minimize embarrassment and restraint. Under such leadership, parties are sure to be refreshing. They are bound to develop those group responses which every leader seeks—pre-party anticipation, whole hearted participation, and the satisfying realization that play is mostly for the fun of it.

Ice Breakers in 1882

THAT there are certain experiences which do not vary greatly from age to age is borne out in an old book on games entitled *New Games for Parlor and Lawn*, published by Harper and Brothers in 1882. In those days, as in our own, hostesses at parties apparently had difficulty in "getting started," and so we find a chapter in the book dedicated to "Mirthful Magic or How to Turn a Dull Party Into a Merry One."

"When young people, and often old ones also, first arrive at a party they are apt to feel a little stiff and awkward, and to stand about in corners, as if oppressed with the responsibility of their best gloves and clothes, and the giver of entertainment seeks in vain to enliven and stir them up. For her aid we propose to give a few simple receipts which will answer the purpose, and give them a good laugh, after which they will be ready for the harder games which will follow. First she may ask them to join in the game of 'Satisfaction.' Every person in the room is invited to stand up, and all join hands in a ring, in the centre

of which the leader stands, holding a cane in her hand, with which she points to each one in turn, and asks this question, 'Are you satisfied?' Each replies in turn as he or she pleases, many probably saying 'No,' and others 'Yes.' The leader then says, "All who are satisfied may sit down, the others may stand up until they are satisfied."

A sample of the "receipts" offered follows:

"Mesmeric Trick. Offer to mesmerize any lady so that she cannot get up alone; and when one volunteers place her in a chair in the centre of the room, and sit facing her, requesting all the company to keep quiet and unite their wills with yours. Ask the lady to fold her arms and lean back comfortably, and proceed to make a variety of passes and motions with your hands with great solemnity. After a few moments say, 'Get up; and as she rises from her chair you rise at the same moment and say, 'I told you you could not get up alone.' If she suspects a trick and does not rise, of course your reply is the same."

Social Games and Stunts

IT was a group of enthusiastic leaders at the 1930 Recreation Congress who until late one night demonstrated games and told one another of the social activities they had found most successful in their programs. It was no theoretical discussion but a practical "give and take," and each delegate came away with new ideas for his winter parties.

Here are a few of the games they taught one another to play:

Have You Seen My Sheep?

The players stand in a circle. One walks around on the outside. He touches one of the circle players on the back and asks, "Have you seen my sheep?" The one questioned answers, "How was he dressed?" The outside player then describes the dress of someone in the circle saying, for instance, "He wears a red necktie; he is dressed in gray and he has low shoes." The one questioned then names the one whom he thinks this describes, and if right, at once begins to run after him around the circle. Each of the circle players must be very alert to recognize himself in the description given by the outside player, for as soon as he is named he must run around the outside of the circle chased by the player who guessed, and try to reach his own place before being tagged. The one who gives the description does not take part in the chase. Should the runner be tagged before returning to his place, he must take the place of the questioner, running in his turn around the circle and asking of some player, "Have you seen my sheep?"

Old Sayings (Double Quick Relay)

The players are divided into two lines or teams of equal numbers who stand facing each other. A box, a table or a chair is placed at end of each line. A block, a bean bag, a book, or whatnot should be placed on the box at one end of each line. Each player of every line is numbered consecutively from number one up, so that there is a number one in each line, a number two in each

At the Recreation Congress, held at Atlantic City in October, 1930, a practical demonstration of social games was held in which delegates assumed responsibility for teaching games which they had found particularly popular. The games were later compiled by W. T. Reed, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, Altoona, Pennsylvania. A few of the games from Mr. Reed's compilation are presented here.

line, etc. Each number of both lines is given a name, such as, number one's—*Feather*; number two's—*Picture*; number three's—*Whistle*. The director calls for two players by announcing the first part of a well known phrase, such as, "As light as a (feather)"; "As pretty as a (picture)." The two players whose names are designated, race to the end of the line where the object has been placed, carry it to the opposite end of the line, place it on the box, table or chair or whatever it may be and return to their places in the line. The first person to reach his place in line scores one point for his side. The following phrases are suggested:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Hard as a Rock | 18. Fat as a Pig |
| 2. Light as a Feather | 19. Sly as a Fox |
| 3. White as Snow | 20. Thin as a Rail |
| 4. Cold as Ice | 21. Strong as an Ox |
| 5. Hot as Fire | 22. Cross as a Bear |
| 6. Yellow as Gold | 23. Neat as a Pin |
| 7. Fine as Silk | 24. Dead as a Doornail |
| 8. Sweet as Honey | 25. Flat as a Pancake |
| 9. Clear as a Crystal | 26. Red as a Beet |
| 10. Green as Grass | 27. Blind as a Bat |
| 11. Large as an Elephant | 28. Busy as a Bee |
| 12. Sharp as a Razor | 29. Happy as a Lark |
| 13. High as a Mountain | 30. Slow as a Snail |
| 14. Dry as a Bone | 31. Clean as a Whistle |
| 15. Sour as a Lemon | 32. Fit as a Fiddle |
| 16. Pretty as a Picture | 33. Fierce as a Tiger |
| 17. Black as a Crow | 34. Quick as Lightning |

Man Race

Divide the group into equal teams. Players stand in a line, one behind the other, facing a blackboard or large piece of brown paper. At the signal from the leader, the first person in each line runs to the blackboard or paper and draws some part of a man, such as body, head or any one part. As soon as that person has finished, he runs and touches off the next person in line who repeats the performance. The line which finishes first is given one point, the most complete "man," one point, and the "best looking" man, a point. The relay may be repeated several times.

Nursery Rhyme Contest

The group is divided into two. One group starts singing a nursery rhyme, always closing with the words "she threw it out the window." For example:

Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow;
Everywhere that Mary went
She threw it out the window.

As soon as one group stops singing one rhyme, the second group starts another. The game is finished as soon as either side reaches the end of its repertoire or repeats a rhyme sung by the other side. The success of the game depends largely upon the quickness of response and the zest with which the rhymes are sung.

O Chester Have You 'Eared about Hairy?
(Tune: *Yankee Doodle*)

O Chest-er have you 'eared about Hairy
Chest got back from the Army,
I 'ear he nose how to wear a rose
Hip, hip, hooray for the Army.

As this parody is sung, the singers slap the parts of the body named. The best effect is obtained by starting slowly and then quickening speed each time the song is repeated.

Ach Ja!

Wenn der Vater und die Mutter
In die Kirche weite gehen
Ach Ja! Ach Ja!
Und haben wir kein geld,
So hab'n die ander' Leut'
Ach Ja! Ach Ja!

Chorus:

Tra la la, Tra la la, tra la la la la la
Tra la la, Tra la la, tra la la la la la

(A group which does not know the words may hum the music of the verse, saying only "ach ja" and "tra la.")

1. Partners join adjacent hands, the man with the left hand toward the center of the circle and with the girl on the man's right. They walk to the right around the circle seven steps; partners then face each other, release hands and bow very simply by bending at the hips on "ach," then turn back to back and bow again on "ja."

2. Repeat from the beginning.

3. Chorus—partners join hands on chorus and step to the side and then stop, bringing the feet together (step, close) and so on for four steps to the man's left and the girl's right, and finishing with the bows as before. Note: The music for "Ach Ja" and "Thief" has been copyrighted by Neva Boyd. It can be found in *Handy II*.*

Sneeze Concert

Divide the audience into three convenient sections and announce that these directions for a gigantic community sneeze be followed closely:

When you have counted three, everyone present is to throw back his head, open wide his mouth, and—

Section one will shout "Hish"
Section two will shout "Hash"
Section three will shout "Choo"—
All at the same time and as loudly as possible.

Pufferbilly Song

Down at the station, early in the morning,
See the little Pufferbillies standing in a row
See the engine driver twist the little handle,
Tst!—Tst!—Toot!—Toot! There they go.

(May be used as a two or four part round. Music to this found in the *Girl Scout Song Book*.)†

Spoke Relay

The players stand in five or more divisions in a single file, facing the common center. This formation is like the spokes of a wheel. There shall be one odd player who shall run outside the circle and tag the end player of any one line. This player shall pass the tag to the player in front of him in his same line and each player does the same until the player who is last is tagged. At the instant the player receives the tag he passes it forward and starts at once around the circle coming back where he started. The fun comes in the pushing and squeezing while circling the outside in order that the player shall not be left out.

Thief

Players take partners and stand in a single circle facing in. One player in the circle is without a partner and is the first "thief." To the music the thief skips sideways, diagonally across the circle and steals a partner from someone in the circle. Taking both her hands, he skips back across the circle to his place in line. The player whose partner was stolen immediately skips sideways across the circle and takes some other player's partner and they both skip back to place. This continues without any interruption, the player whose partner has been stolen in each case immediately skipping sideways to secure another. In this game the players must not be allowed to lag, but must move rapidly.

*Girl Scouts, Incorporated, 670 Lexington Avenue, New York City. \$1.00.

*Church Recreation Service, Delaware, Ohio. \$2.50.

Music in Community Centers

A plea for permeating
the entire community
center program with the
best music has to offer

By Augustus Delafield Zanzig
Director of Music
National Recreation Association

AT eight o'clock every Monday evening in one of the community centers of a large mid-western city a community sing was offered. The elective and volunteer council of citizens in charge of the center felt responsibility in making this endeavor successful. They wanted their center to have music as well as many other things, and some of them could be seen at almost every sing. One of them acted as press agent and they all felt urged to attract people in any way they could to these Monday evening gatherings. But after eight weeks of such effort the Council voted emphatically to drop community singing. The number participating in it, about forty in the beginning, had dwindled to eight or ten.

Now a tonic of good, lastingly palatable "food" for singing and some for listening, an interest in



At a number of the San Francisco centers there are choruses of older women meeting regularly.

dramatizing some of the witty old ballads, the stimulus of a project such as singing between the acts of a play, or some other vitalizing influences, might have made this musical patient flourish very happily. But there were many other opportunities

for community singing in that community center that were neglected.

A visitor going through the building one evening found young men in a gymnasium class marching around in silence with orderly, vigorous step, but without the liberating buoyancy and swing of movement that marching should have. A good brass band would have helped enormously if the place were larger, and almost as helpful would have been the piano if it were well played and if it were in tune. But a good hiking song sung by the boys themselves would have been best of all.

In the auditorium on the same evening a group of women, some of them middle-aged, were engaged in what was evidently one of the last rehearsals of a sort of burlesque show. The leader, locally famous for his radio "jazz patters," was playing *That's My Weakness Now* and shouting directions to the women, who were wriggling or strutting around the stage or in a row in the front of it and yowling the chorus. A pathetic sight it was, without laughter; apparently a desperate but vain effort to be gay. One thought of the really gay singing and dancing they might be having, and of other deeper and romantic things about womanhood; and he very soon turned away from that show.

In a classroom nearby a small group were rehearsing Barrie's *The Old Lady Shows Her Medals*, a delightful antidote to what the auditorium was forced to hold. This and two other short plays were later to be given to the folk of the center. There was to be music between the plays, which was to be provided by the "jazz patter" man! But why not have a group of men sing the Scottish *Bonnie Dundee* or *The Hundred Pipers* before or after that Barrie play, and have them followed by a chorus of women in another good Scottish or an English folk song, and then the men and women together in such a song as *Ay Waukin, O* or *The Blue Bells of Scotland*? This singing might be all the more intertwined in the thread of the Barrie tale if it were "behind the scenes." Why struggle to attract people to community singing on Monday evenings and then have "jazz patters" when the people are attracted to a play that, like many other plays, can be very happily wedded to music that is appropriate both

to itself and to the community singers or players? The whole audience might well have sung *Annie Laurie* or the like.

There were several other activities scheduled for that evening in the center. A mothers' club had a sewing bee which was also very much of a talking bee and might have included some informal singing. Lacking someone to start a song and help to keep it going, a good phonograph sparingly used might very well have done the trick with only the help of one of the mothers to start it off. The following songs have been recorded

for the very purpose of persuading and otherwise helping people of all ages to sing them:

Songs People Enjoy Singing

Victor Records

1. Spring Song (Chopin); 2. Spring's Messenger (Schumann); 3. Autumn (Franz); 4. Greeting (Mendelssohn) 20343
1. Morning Song (Grieg); 2. The Rose (Franz); 3. The Jolly Miller (Schubert); 4. The Brooklet (Schubert) 20343
1. Lavender's Blue (English); 2. I Had a Little Nut Tree (English); 3. Golden Slumbers (English); 4. Sweet Nightingale (English); 5. The Spanish Gypsy (Spanish) 20986
1. Going Through Lorraine (French); 2. Praise to the Father (Dutch); 3. La Cachucha (Spanish); 4. Bosnian Shepherd Song (Bosnia) 20986
1. Lullaby (Cradle Song) (arr. Brahms); 2. Little Dustman (Brahms) 20737
1. Hey Baloo (Schumann); 2. The Linden Tree (Schubert) 20737
1. Away for Rio (Sailor's Chantey); 2. Blow the Man Down (Sailor's Chantey); 3. Sourwood Mountain (Kentucky Folk); 4. Billy Boy (Old English); 5. Begone, Dull Care (Old English) .. 21751
1. Sweet Kitty Clover (Knight-Kean); 2. Bende-meer's Stream (Old Tune); 3. Frog Went a-Court-ing (Kentucky Folk); 4. Spanish Guitar (College Song) 21751
1. Flow Gently Sweet Afton (Burns-Spilman); 2. Sally in Our Alley (Old English); 3. Ye Banks and Braes of Bonnie Doon (Old Scotch) 4083
1. John Peel (Border Song); 2. Scots Wha' Hae (Old Scotch); 3. Jock O'Hazeldean (Old Scotch) 4083
- Home, Sweet Home (Payne-Bishop) 21949
- Sweet and Low (Tennyson-Barnby) 21949
- Old Folks at Home (Foster) 21950
- Dixie (Emmett) 21950
- Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes (Old English)
- Believe Me, If All Those Endearing Young Charms (Old Irish) 22081
1. All Through the Night (Old Welsh); 2. Love's Old Sweet Song (Molloy) 22082
1. Annie Laurie (Old Scotch); 2. Auld Lang Syne (Old Scotch) 22082

These suggestions for music in community centers have been taken from a chapter entitled *Music in Settlements and Community Centers*, which will appear in a forthcoming book, *Music in American Life*. This book, to be published by the Oxford University Press, incorporates the results of a study of community music made by Mr. Zanzig for the National Recreation Association. Announcement will be made later of the publication of the book.

A Plowing Song; Dreaming; The Keeper (English); Kye Song of St. Bride (Clokey); Music in the Air (Root)..... 22455

Alleluia (German); Tiritomba (Italian); Morning Comes Early (Slovakian); A Song of Seasons (Hungarian) 22457

Song of the Volga Boatmen; Going Through Lorraine; Andulko (Slovakian); Rada Song (Slovakian) 22456

Any of these songs is likely to set people humming if not singing it, and it is very likely to remain in the memory for many a day, a very enjoyable accompaniment not only to sewing but also to other chores of housekeeping at home. Having the words of the song or songs on the blackboard will add to the urge to sing and a mimeographed copy of them for each mother would be likely to find its way to her home, there to do likewise—perhaps for her family as well as for herself.

It would be very foolish to try to introduce music into every activity or meeting. That is not the intention. There were quiet games of cards and checkers in that center, and saws, hammers and planes kept ears and minds full in the shop. But it is equally foolish to neglect or misuse opportunities to bring music into what are natural settings for it.

In many community centers a special "community night" is held once a month or every two months, in some once a week, when the whole evening is given to some kind or kinds of activity or exhibition which everyone at the center can participate in or observe. Music almost always has some part in such a program, and sometimes occupies all of it. Harvest, Christmas, Spring and Folk festivals and other celebrations also offer fortunate opportunities for singing and playing.

At this point it should be emphatically repeated that musical groups from the public and private schools and music schools of the neighborhood should now and then be given opportunity to take part in community center affairs. Such a relationship to the schools is especially suited to the many community centers that are in school buildings.

Music for Boys

Encouragement for musical endeavors with boys may be found in the great success of boys' glee clubs in an increasing number of schools. For instance, in Minneapolis, there are Junior High school boys' glee clubs that meet voluntarily three times a week during club periods when there are meetings of many other kinds of clubs that any boy might enter. The principal of a school in which there are seventy boys in a glee club said

that there could be three more such clubs if there were teachers enough. Those seventy boys sing four-part music admirably and are able to read such music at sight with remarkable skill. This ability to "play the game" well is, of course, an important factor, but the process of acquiring ability, if carried on effectively, without waste of time or effort is also interesting. In Seattle there is an extra-curricular Junior High school glee club of ninety boys who come regularly at 7:45 A. M. for their rehearsals.

Choral Groups

In the Y. W. C. A. in Washington, D. C., there has been a Madrigal Club of eighteen men and women whose weekly rehearsal from 8 to 9 o'clock is always followed by a social hour. In respect to the social hour, this is similar to the large Cincinnati chorus of young men and women, which is also exemplary of what might be done in a community center. During Music Week in San Francisco last year three leaders of working girls' choruses combined them in a single concert. In Baltimore fourteen women's clubs with about 600 members and ten girls' clubs with a membership of about 200, all of them community center groups, came together at the recreation pier for a song contest in which each club presented a song and tableau and was judged for its singing.

A festival combining the community center choral groups of a city, or a quota from each group, could be a fine, stimulating project; all the better if it could combine orchestral groups in the same way for the same event. In the Washington Y. W. C. A. a glee club was formed of a quota from each of several clubs meeting in the building. This suggests the possibility of an All-Community Center Chorus similarly formed.

An all-city or an all-neighborhood choir of boys alone, girls alone, or one of boys and girls together, formed of the most faithful and capable singers, could be most easily attained in the schools—and this has been done in a number of cities. But if adequate leadership and cooperation with the school music teachers could be gained for it, having it outside of the schools would be even more likely to integrate it in the life of the community and in the real, lasting life of the boy or girl, especially if it could grow genuinely out of the entirely self-propulsive living in one or more community centers.

Such a choir might be formed only for special occasions, including visits to the city by distinguished persons. It might have only three or four

rehearsals before each occasion, using worthy music made familiar perhaps in the schools. It might be led by the school music supervisor. A select choir of unchanged voices—boys or girls of eleven to about fourteen years of age—would be the easiest to gather and train, but a choir including also good tenor and bass voices of boys would have even greater social and personal value.

Playing

From the toy orchestra or rhythm band to the symphony orchestra there is no kind of instrumental group that cannot be found in some community center or settlement. The municipal and school centers of Long Beach, California, shelter two boys' bands, several harmonica bands enlisting together about 500 children, ukulele groups of a similar number, a band of 40 old troupers—all of them veterans of professional circus or troupers' bands—a Civic Orchestra of men and women and a Woman's Symphony Orchestra of 50, all sponsored and supported by the

Playground and Recreation Commission of the city, which does likewise for two large choruses and for weekly community sings at which there is always a brief concert also. A recent program given jointly by the Long Beach Civic Chorus and the Woman's Symphony Orchestra is impressive for its content—Handel's *Messiah*—and for its list of eight instead of four soloists, three of whom are members of the chorus.

The social centers of Milwaukee have an unsurpassed example of community playing by orchestras to which any player is admissible without try-out. The meaning of these orchestras cannot be better stated than it was in an editorial by Mr. Richard S. Davis for a June, 1930, issue of the *Milwaukee Journal*.

"Herewith is ammunition that seems to the writer to be the best possible corrective for the

musically despondent. It has to do with the work done by the extension department of the Milwaukee public schools, a work begun this last season in the various social centers of the city.

"The other night a program was given in the Lapham Park social center by the orchestras of the Grant Street, Dover Street, Clarke Street, Third Street and Fourth Street centers and the glee club of the Thirty-seventh Street center. The smallest orchestra had 17 members, the biggest 35. In all 129 instrumental musicians were assembled and the united glee club had 145 singers.

"Now the writer was not there to hear the program, but a far more competent witness and



Music enters into many of the activities of the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, social center program.

listener has come in to tell all about it. She has reported, this witness, that the evening was one of the most encouraging experiences of her musical life, which has been eager and active. She has told of the radiance of the players and singers as they paid their devoted respects to Bizet, Weber and Mozart. She has made a picture of it, a picture revealing the expansion of souls, not less than that.

"At least one man has been convinced that no better work for music is being done in the town. The people making up the orchestras, you understand, are not the people who go to all the concerts and idly listen to expensive music. They cannot afford it. Most of them can afford very little in the way of entertainment. But they have the spirit and the devotion to make music of their own, now that the opportunity is provided.

"Many nationalities are represented in the various social center groups and the ages range from lively youth to grave maturity. In one orchestra there are four members of one family doing noble service to winds and strings. In another a father plays the cornet while his daughter manages the cello. In still another the father is one of the leading fiddlers while his son concentrates on the bassoon.

"The glee club is made up largely of women who are getting along in years. They are women who know all the intricacies of keeping house from mop to masher and back again. But they want to sing and sing they will. They have divided into groups that meet once a week in one home or another, for the sole purpose of keeping in vocal trim. If that is not genuine, you are asked what is.

"Each one of the orchestras and the glee club has a competent director. For each there is training. And for each undoubtedly there is the immense satisfaction of steady progress in musical ability and musical appreciation.

"Much is said about 'good music' and the tone of the talk is frequently so unctuous that independent folk are driven into scoffing. But to the musicians who gather to play in the social centers good music is good music, with no slightest trace of buncombe about it. All of which is most refreshing."

Of course, the possibility of having an all-city Community Center Orchestra for a special occasion is no less attractive than an all-city chorus.

Chamber Music

The small group needing, if anything, only coaching now and then, is especially well suited to community centers. In every city there are lone players who would like to find one another at such a place and play together for the love of it, especially if some coaching (the coach usually playing a part himself), and a supply of music suited to their abilities were available. Once gathered, they would willingly together purchase more music and even perhaps contribute to the cost of the coaching. But there have been good volunteer coaches, and some public libraries have suitable music for free circulation. A Chamber Music Society in which groups perform for one another and sometimes together and have time also for sociability, can be a rich source of pleasure and more.

Listening

Informal music hours have been very successfully held on Sundays at five o'clock in the Wash-

ington (D. C.) Y. W. C. A. Each series of hours has been enriched in meaning through being unified by a single subject. For instance, in October the series was confined to *Native Music*, in November to *What Men Live By—Work, Play, Love and Worship*, and in December to Christmas carols. At each concert the music secretary introduced the artist of the afternoon, who gave a brief explanatory talk about each composition or section of the program. The attendance increased from 18 for the first concert to 125 for the concerts of the third month.

Such informal periods of listening offer opportunity for all kinds of worthy groups of amateur singers and players to have the incentive and satisfaction of giving a concert, and in these days there is many a soloist amateur or a budding professional accomplished enough to give pleasure to everyone concerned.

In some centers notices of concerts anywhere in the city are posted and tickets distributed for those that are free or for which some free seats are available. The Community Center Department of Washington, D. C., directs a Community Institute which brings to the city a service of excellent concerts, lectures and other events, two each month from November to March, that cost the subscriber only 30 cents each.

Two Further Suggestions

That "nothing succeeds like success" is especially true of musical endeavors. In every field of music, among amateurs as among professionals, there may be found top-notch groups whose achievements and resulting prestige have been a great stimulus to other groups and individuals. There are millions of people engaging in singing and playing and having a fairly good time at it, but one has only to hear a group like the Czechoslovakian children led by Bakule who were in this country a few years ago, to realize how much more vital and joyous a thing music can be than it is as it comes from most choruses, orchestras, and the like. If the community center officials could find anywhere in the city a person who would be likely to induce children or grown-ups to sing or play in this vital way, let them engage him even if only for one group. For those who hear this group will say, "Why can't we sing (or play) like that?" or "Why can't our community center have music like that?" and half the battle will be already won.

The other suggestion is that there be effort to

(Continued on page 408)

Recreational Dramatics

in the Community Center

DRAMA has an important part to play in the community center program, and in increasing numbers clubs are being organized whose main interest is the giving of plays and the carrying on of a continuous program of dramatic activities. At some time or other, however, every club or informal social group, though it may not be organized as a drama club, feels the urge to give a play.

As rehearsals must often be restricted to club meetings, such an undertaking is apt to appear too difficult and to go by the boards simply for lack of time. The result is a growing demand from clubs everywhere for a short play which can be rehearsed and produced the same evening. Since talent is seldom lacking in any group and the desire to express oneself through acting is alive in nearly every person, short plays which can be performed with a minimum of time and effort have become increasingly popular. The very short play meets a twofold need—to offer purely recreational entertainment and to be a guide to the drama director in discovering and placing talent. It is therefore a valuable aid in the community center program.

In both business and social clubs, drama finds a place on the program. After the formal business meeting the short play provides a few minutes of entertainment and pleasant relaxation before the close of the evening. Members of social clubs pause in their dancing and games to enjoy the quiet fun of seeing their friends in the impromptu dramatic stunt. If the stunts are being used for the first time, urge others to try the same play, or a new play, at the next meeting. Mem-

In 1929 the Community Drama Service of the National Recreation Association prepared Six Dramatic Stunts for impromptu entertainment. The success of these stunts and the demand for more material have resulted in the publication of Six More Dramatic Stunts. The material presented here has been taken from the introduction to the Stunts.

bers of a family might take a stunt and prepare it at home, working out their own costuming and setting. Perhaps someone will want to rewrite the stunt, incorporating an idea of his own which will improve it, or it may suggest an entirely new play. It is astonishing how many differ-

ent ideas may be worked out in these little dramatic stunts and what an incentive they may be to play writing. Frequently recognized drama societies as well as writers have come from the gradual development of talent and leadership discovered through these simple entertainments.

As a means of determining ability the short play is invaluable to the inexperienced director. In casting it has often happened that persons who seem most talented at the first reading prove mediocre, while slower, heavier types develop in time into excellent actors. Since the success of amateur plays practically depends on fitting the actor into the part best suited to him, it is of the greatest importance to the director to discover in what direction the ability of each person lies. To determine this, it is suggested that stunts be used for two or three evenings before casting for the long play. This method is a safeguard which may possibly save the young drama society from early abandonment and assist it through the first perilous months until it is a solid organization.

Production Suggestions

As the great-grandfather of the dramatic stunt is the charade, a form of entertainment which has practically disappeared in this country but still a delightful feature of informal gatherings in England, the costume box, always in readiness for

an evening of charades, will become equally important in producing the stunt.

For the first evening, the hostess or club leader may gather together such costumes and properties as are necessary for the stunts which she has selected. Pantomime will take care of many details. A gradual accumulation of screens, old hats, long skirts, shawls, toy telephones, a cane, an old umbrella, a suitcase and an endless number of discarded objects will eventually enrich the costume and property boxes and add color to the impromptu performances.

The easiest and best way to prepare the stunts is the standard method of production conducted on a small scale. The leader should have a copy of the stunt for each actor. The cast is assembled in another room and the play read to them, as it is always an advantage to amateurs to hear a play as a whole before going to work on it. The leader has planned the business beforehand and after the reading she sets the stage and goes through the stunt with the cast. No attempt should be made to memorize the lines when the play is to be given the same evening. The lines should be read so that all the time and attention of the cast may be given to acting. The entire preparation will not take more than fifteen or twenty minutes after which the cast may be left alone to decide how to make the best use of the costumes provided, while the leader takes another group and repeats this same method of preparation with a different play. It is thus possible to rehearse four stunts in an hour and have them ready for the entertainment later in the evening.

The leader may make a short announcement before each stunt is presented, introducing the cast and giving a brief description of the scene. This is especially helpful when properties are few and an appeal must be made to the imagination of the audience. A number of stunts used as a miniature drama tournament have proved an excellent way of introducing this form of entertainment. This was done at a convention with a group of people unfamiliar with the dramatic stunt. Judges were selected and a cup, cut from cardboard and covered with silver paper, was awarded the winning cast. The little tournament was so successful that the competitive method of presentation is recommended.

Bibliography of Stunt Material

Six More Dramatic Stunts. National Recreation Association. \$.35.

Acting Charades by Laura E. Richards. Fifty-four different charades with an additional list of one hundred and fifty words. The Walter H. Baker Company, 41 Winter Street, Boston, Massachusetts. 75c.

"Kit" 11—Stunt Number—A loose leaf book of stunts to which others may be added. Write for catalog of other inexpensive collections. Church Recreation Service, Delaware, Ohio. 30c.

Six Rehearsal-less Entertainments—A collection of entertainments for amateur talent, including singers, dancers, speakers, pianists, etc. Eldridge Entertainment House, Franklin, Ohio. 40c.

Snappy Stunts for Social Gatherings by Margaret Bridge. Clever suggestions for large or small gatherings. Eldridge Entertainment House. 75c.

Stunts for Fun and Fancy by Elizabeth Hines Hanley. Ten dramatic stunts arranged for camps, clubs, schools and playgrounds. Samuel French, 25 West 45th Street, New York City. 50c.

Successful Stunts edited by Katherine Ferris Rohrbough. A variety of old and new stunts for every occasion. Doubleday, Doran and Company, Garden City, N. Y. \$1.50.

Stunt Night Tonight by Catherine Atkinson Miller. A large collection of stunts for camps and club meetings. Doubleday, Doran and Company. \$1.50.

Three-Minute Plays by Percival Wilde. Twenty-one splendid little plays. One part of this book is extremely sophisticated and is recommended only for groups desiring material of this type. Greenburg, Publisher, Inc., 160 Fifth Avenue, New York City. \$2.00.

Revue—A book of short sketches edited by Kenyon Nicholson. Many of these are excellent sophisticated stunts best suited to such occasions as smokers. D. Appleton and Company, 35 West 32nd Street, New York City. \$1.50.

Vaudeville What-Nots—A selection of new vaudeville material for the club, lodge, school, home, or professional entertainer. Banner Play Bureau, Inc., 111 Ellis Street, San Francisco, California. 60c.

Impromptu Entertainments by Don Sheridan. 8 entertainments for mixed casts. The Dramatic (Continued on page 408)

The Spooks' Trysting Place

A Hallowe'en Party

GHOSTS and skeletons have

always been present at Hallowe'en parties but usually they are accorded only second honors. Witches, with their clairvoyant powers, have told pasts, presents and futures, and have dominated

the party generally. This year the witches have been relegated to second place and spooks are to entertain, or better still, to scare the hearts out of those bold enough to venture out on Hallowe'en.

The following invitation announces a party at "Spooks' Trysting Place":

If you can grin when dry bones clank,
And laugh when goblins play their pranks.
If you can venture near a den
Where specters torture fearful men,
Then you are brave enough to face
The horrors of "SPOOKS' TRYSTING PLACE."

So come to see the phantoms white,
Which haunt my house on Hallowe'en night.

Place

Date

Time

Password "I fear no man,
I fear no spook.
Come on, you ghost,
Let's have a look."

When the fateful evening arrives and the guests knock on the door, a voice from



Courtesy Dennison Manufacturing Co.

within demands the password. As soon as the guest says, "Let's have a look," the door opens and a giant ghost appears which, much to the consternation of the visitor, dwindles in size after the door is opened. The giant is made by fastening a ghost's head

on the end of a broom and tying a sheet around it at the neck. The entire device is held up by a girl or boy inside who holds the broom by the handle and raises and lowers it at will.

The Inescapable Chamber of Horrors

Before the guest has recovered from his surprise, two skeleton assistants grab him, blindfold him, and push him quickly into the much feared and inevitable Chamber of Horrors. This is a narrow passageway decorated with corn stalks from which protrude stuffed stocking legs and arms, hands made from cast-off gloves, a ghost's face under which a small electric bulb flashes on and off constantly, and other weird hair-raisers. Hidden behind the corn stalks are spooks who taunt the guests as they go by. One rubs a sharp piece of ice across their faces as the ghost guides shout, "Watch out, you're burnt." Others unexpectedly turn on the vacuum cleaner, an alarm clock, or an electric fan to which has been attached paper streamers with wet cotton balls on the ends.

On the floor under a carpet is a section of

SEND for New Hallowe'en Bulletin

an old spring over which the blindfolded guest must walk. On the floor, too, are cushions, old rubber automobile horns and various other noise-making devices. A large upholstered chair is placed at the end of the passageway so that the guests must struggle to reach the room in which are waiting the hapless guests who preceded them.

When they finally reach it, they find themselves in "Spooks' Trysting Place," which, needless to explain, is a large room transformed into a graveyard. The ceiling and walls are draped in gray gauze or cheese cloth. Cut out bats and owls suspended from invisible wires brush the cheeks of the unsus-

pecting guests. Lights are covered with black tin cans from which both lids have been removed and on which are painted white skulls and cross bones. The bottoms of the cans are covered with dull green gelatin which casts an eerie light over the room, and which reveals, in the distant corners, graves padded with paper or cotton and covered with green cambric and headstones of white cardboard, on which are inscribed appropriate epitaphs. In the distance a bell tolls dismally. It is a cow bell attached to a faucet and is kept ringing by water splashing over it. In each corner of the room stands a leering ghost made from a clothes tree draped with sheets. Under the masks electric bulbs flash on and off at regular intervals.

When the guests reach this room, they are given ten "teeth of dead men" (kernels of corn) and are told by the receiving spook that they are to try to guess the identity of each guest there and of each new guest as he arrives. Anyone whose identity is discovered must give a "tooth" to the person who guesses correctly. When all invited are present, the "teeth" are counted. The two having the highest number are dubbed Honor Spooks, and are given cardboard skull and cross bones as prizes. Those without any "teeth" are required by the chief spook to pay some such penalty as the following:

Hoot like an owl.

Act like a woman chased by a spook.

Imitate a classic dancer.

Play a slide trombone.



CUT-OUT N°H 644

Courtesy Dennison Co.

Imitate a beginner writing a letter on the typewriter.

Hallowe'en Games

The guests are now ready for action so the following games are played:

Catching Skulls. Cardboard cut-outs of skulls are scattered on the floor in the center of the room. There should be one less skull than the number of people who play the game. A lively march is played during which everyone dances around. Suddenly the music stops and each person tries to catch a skull. The one who fails to get one must sit in the center. As the circle is formed again one skull is taken away and the rest placed on the floor. This continues until all the guests are sitting in the center of the floor and no skulls remain.

Cat Tails. Before the guests arrive, a red and a black cat without tails are cut from cardboard. They are mounted on white cardboard allowing sufficient space for a twenty-inch tail. The tails are now cut from cardboard and then cut up into pieces about an inch long. These pieces are hidden around the room before the party starts. When the time comes to play the game the guests separate into two groups, the black cat tail hunters and the red cat tail hunters, each with a captain. The hunt now begins for pieces of the cats' tails. Each piece found must be brought to the captain who pastes it on the cat. The side completing the longest tail in a given time wins. Members of the red team finding pieces of the black tail may tear them up and vice versa.

Ghosts Guess. Make about a dozen bags of thin white paper and place a different object in each one. Select things that have as greatly differing and distinct outlines as possible. Pin



CUT-OUT N°H 634

Courtesy Dennison Co.

the bags on a line stretched across the room or in a doorway so that there is a strong light behind them. Put out all the other lights in the room and give five or ten minutes in which to guess what the ghosts are. The bags must not be touched, the shadows giving the only clues. "Ghosts" of even well known articles are harder to guess than one would imagine. Turn the lights on and write lists of the articles. Two "ghost" handkerchiefs, one to a boy and the other to a girl ghost, may be awarded the winners.

Lucky Test. Draw three concentric circles on the floor. The outside one is marked "Lucky," the middle one "Luckier" and the inner one "Luckiest." Each guest stands at a certain line and is allowed three throws with a rope quoit at the circles. If it lands in any one of the circles, it decides the thrower's luck for that year. If none of the circles are touched the thrower remains a "luckless wight."

Feeding the Spooks. Dress milk bottles to represent spooks by covering them with white crepe paper and fastening a ghost's head on the top so that the mouth fits exactly over the opening in the milk bottle. These spooks are now placed at regular intervals at the front of the room. The group is divided into teams and lined up into single file opposite a "spook." Each person in line is given three beans. At a signal from the leader, the first person in each line runs up to the spook and from shoulder height tries to drop beans into its mouth. As soon as he has dropped his beans he runs back, touches off the second in line and takes his place at the end of the file. This is repeated until each person in every team has had a chance to run. The team that succeeds in dropping most beans in the spook's mouth wins the game.

Gravestone Relay. The gravestones which are used for decorative effects can also be utilized as game equipment. They should be placed in such a way that there are at least four in two straight lines. The group is divided into two teams which line up in single file opposite the headstones. Players jump over the four headstones, run back to place and then tag the next one in line, who repeats the procedure. The team whose last runner returns to the starting point first wins the game. If the gravestones are not used, clothes trees dressed as spooks will be appropriate. These should be put at the head of each line and the players required to run around them before returning to place.



CUT-OUT N°H 654

Courtesy Dennison Co.

Roll the Bones. Paint several dumb-bells white. This is another relay game and should be played in exactly the same formation as the preceding game. In this one each player rolls the bones with a stick about three feet long. They are rolled to a given point and back again where the second player takes the stick and continues the game.

Hallowe'en Superstitions. Have your guests write all the superstitions that they know. For instance, walking under a ladder is a sign of bad luck; picking up a pin found lying on the floor will bring good luck. At least two people must have heard of the omen to make it count. A small stuffed black cat would be an appropriate prize to the writer of the longest list.

At the End of the Evening

Refreshments consisting of sandwiches, apples, doughnuts and cider are now served. After refreshments all the lights are turned out and each guest is given a lighted candle. From a bowl of nuts (English walnuts) passed around, each guest takes one which he cracks while the hostess repeats in a solemn tone: "Hold above the candle what you find within. Careful not to scorch it—that would be a sin." Inside the walnut is a tightly rolled bit of paper on which a fortune from Spookland is written in lemon juice. The Message remains invisible until the paper is heated over one of the candles. An inexpensive book of fortunes entitled *Hallowe'en Happenings* may be secured from Walter H. Baker Co., Boston.

And now comes a blood curdling feature:

A ghost seats himself on the floor in the center of the room and commands the guests to sit around him. He begins to tell a very weird spook story. At a dramatic moment another ghost appears and spirits away one of the guests who screams piercingly. A minute later a light is flashed on in one corner of the room and the head of the victim is seen. To make the effect gruesome, a sheet is

hung from a horizontal rod several feet from the floor and the bottom is tacked to the floor to make it taut. The victim protrudes his head through a slit in the sheet. A strip of red flannel is fastened around his throat to cover the place where the neck touches the sheet. Splashes of carmine or red

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Courtesy Dennison Manufacturing Co.

A Kickball League for Senior Women

By Elsie Erley

Assistant Supervisor, Department of Recreation, Detroit, Michigan

THE Detroit, Michigan, Department of Recreation is making a special drive in its program for married women, and not the least important of its activities is the Senior Women's Kickball League consisting of twenty-two teams divided into three divisions—North, East and West. The League is primarily a spring league which closes about the first of July when many of the mothers leave the city with their families.

The Department of Recreation has adapted the old game of kickball to playground baseball, the result being a game which the women enjoy because it is something like baseball but easier to play. All the women can kick the ball, whereas it is difficult for many of them to do the batting required in baseball. It is also much easier to catch the kickball and the women are not afraid of hurting their fingers.

The use of the same diamond required for playground ball with the addition of a few lines makes it unnecessary to lay out another diamond. With the same pitcher's boxes and bases there is no confusion and a better diamond is the result as there are no additional holes worn in the ground. The home plate is the same as in playground ball and the base runner must touch this plate. Pitching lines have been added between which the pitcher must roll the ball. Experiments showed that with the pitcher's box 35 feet from home it was too difficult to roll the ball over the 12-inch home plate. The new area was made 28



What activities can we plan for older women? Recreation leaders eagerly seek the answer.

inches wide—the distance between the batter's boxes for playground baseball.

The kicker is given from the 10 foot line to the 3 foot line to run up on the ball. This gives her ample room to run, yet limits her to a certain section. The ball must be kicked over the 8 foot line. A ball which does not roll over this line is a foul ball and with the new rules the first two fouls are strikes. This does away with the bunting rule which would be rather difficult to determine in kickball.

Rules for Playground Kickball

Rule I. Diamond

The diamond is a square with each side 45 feet in length.

Pitcher's box is 35 feet from home.

Pitcher's plate is a board 6 by 24 inches.

Foul line is 8 feet from home. (This is measured from home toward the pitcher's box and is a straight line drawn across the diamond between first and third base lines.)

Serving line is 3 feet from home. (Measured as above.)

Pitching lines: 28 inches in width on 3 foot line (i.e., 14 inches measured each way from center of 3 foot line.)

Lines are then extended at right angles from 3 foot line to first and third base lines.

Kicker's area is between the 3 foot line and the 10 foot line.

15 inch bases are in each corner. 12 inch base at home.

Rule II. Equipment

Out-seam basketball

Rule III. Teams, Players and Substitutes

Section 1. Ten players on each side. Positions same as baseball. None required to occupy an exact position on field except pitcher, who must stand with his feet touching the pitcher's plate when in the act of delivering the ball to the kicker.

Section 2. Not less than seven players shall occupy the field in any inning of a game.

Section 3. Substitute may enter game at any time except when ball is in play. Player whom he succeeds shall not thereafter participate in that game.

Rule IV. The Game

Section 1. A game shall consist of seven innings.

Section 2. Four or more innings shall constitute a game if called for darkness or rain.

Section 3. The choice of innings shall be decided by the toss of a coin.

Rule V. Forfeiture

A forfeited game shall be declared by the umpire in favor of the team not at fault in the following cases:

1. If a team fails to appear upon the field or hav-

ing seven players upon the field refuses to begin the game within five minutes after the umpire has called play.

2. If a team fails to have at least seven players on the field fifteen minutes after the scheduled time.

Rule VI. Pitching Rules

The pitcher must come to a stand with both feet on the plate, facing the kicker, then may step forward with one foot, keeping the other foot in constant contact with the plate until after delivering the ball. The ball must be pitched underhanded and rolled on the ground.

Rule VII. Block Ball

Section 1. A block ball is a batted or thrown ball that is stopped or handled by any person not engaged in the game, or touches any obstruction.

Section 2. Base runners may advance one base.

Rule VIII. Fair Ball

A fair kick is a legally kicked ball that settles on, or is handled by or touches a fielder within the foul lines beyond the eight foot line.

Rule IX. Foul Kick.

A foul kick is a legally kicked ball that settles on foul territory between home and first or home and third, or is handled by a player when on or over foul territory. (Balls which are not kicked beyond the 8 foot line are foul balls.)

Rule X. Kicking Order

After the first inning the first kicker in each inning shall be the kicker whose name follows that of the last person who completed his time at kicking in the preceding inning.

Rule XI. Strikes or Kicks

A strike is recorded when:

1. A pitched ball is kicked at and missed.
2. He kicks a foul not caught on the fly unless two strikes have been previously called. (First two fouls shall be strikes.)
3. A legally pitched ball passes between the pitching lines and is not kicked at.

Rule XII. When Kicker Is Out

1. If he kicks out of turn unless error is discovered in time for regular kicker to

Another activity for the older women of Detroit is the Recreational Choral Society, a group composed of women from all parts of the city, most of them housewives. The society, which meets weekly, has appeared at several community events. In May it made its radio debut in a thirty minute program of folk songs.

take his position.

2. If he makes a foul or fair kick and the ball is held by a fielder before the ball touches the ground.

3. If in the act of kicking, the kicker steps over the 3 foot line.

4. After three strikes have been called on the kicker.

Rule XIII. When Kicker Becomes Base Runner

1. Instantly after fair kick.
2. After four balls have been called by umpire.

Rule XIV. Entitled to Bases

Base runner may advance one base:

1. If while kicker, he becomes base runner on four balls.
2. On an overthrow of first, third or home.
3. If occupying a base and a succeeding kicker is given four balls, thereby forcing him off that base.

Rule XV. When Base Runner Is Out

1. If he kicks a fair or foul fly which a fielder catches before it touches the ground.
2. If after a fair kick he is touched with the ball by a fielder before he touches first base.
3. If after a fair kick, the ball is held by a fielder touching first base before he can reach such base.
4. If in running to or between bases he runs out from a direct line between such bases to avoid being touched with the ball in the hands of an opponent. (No fielder may block the base line except with the ball in his hands.)
5. If when the ball is in play he is at any time touched with the ball in the hands of a fielder, unless he is touching the base he is entitled to.
6. If in case a fair or foul fly be caught by a fielder and the ball be returned to the base the runner occupied before said runner can return to that base, provided he started too soon.
7. If any base runner be hit by a fair kicked ball before such is touched by a fielder.
8. If he intentionally kicks or interferes with the ball he has just kicked. If a ball he has just kicked rebounds and hits him in fair territory, he shall be declared out. (In foul territory it shall be called a foul.)
9. A base runner leaving his base while the pitcher, standing in his box, holds the ball, or before it has reached or passed pitching area shall be called out.

Rule XVI. Return to Bases

The base runner shall return to his base without liability to be put out:

1. If the umpire declares any foul not legally caught.
2. After illegally pitched ball.
3. After dead ball unless it be also the fourth ball and he is forced to take next base.

Rule XVII. When Runs Are Scored

A run shall be scored only on a kick or a play. No run shall be scored on a throw back. A throw to any fielder other than the pitcher is not considered a throwback.

A runner on third cannot score on any pitched ball which passes the catcher. A runner on third may score on a fair or foul fly ball after it is caught, or on a play upon any other base runner.

The League

Eligibility

This League is primarily for married women. All special cases as to eligibility will be decided by the Kickball Committee.

A player may play on one team only.

All teams must be coached by women. Coaches and practice fields will be assigned free of charge by the Department of Recreation.

Registration

The registration of every player is necessary; every player must sign her own card. Not more than 15 players will be allowed on each team. (This includes the manager and captain.)

Registration cards will be furnished by the Department of Recreation and must be filed in the office on or before May 1st. Players joining teams after May 1st must file cards in the office twenty-four hours before playing in a scheduled game.

Each manager on releasing a player must do so in writing. This release must be given to Miss Erley before the released player will be permitted to sign with another team. No player will be permitted to sign up with any team after half the scheduled games have been played.

An entrance fee of \$3.00 will be charged per team. This is used to buy trophies.

Schedule

Teams will play once through the schedule.

Games will not be postponed except for rain. Fifteen minutes is allowed before forfeiting.

Any team forfeiting two games in succession will be suspended from the League.

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Athletic Programs for Young Men

By W. Duncan Russell

General Director, Community Service of Boston, Inc.

SUCCESSFUL promotion of competitive programs for young men between the ages of eighteen and twenty has been the key to successful organization of their younger brothers and neighbors and sometimes their sons, and for this reason we have emphasized it in our work in Boston. Most street corner groups have a younger following who do as they do, and if the older boys have participated in our programs the younger boys have followed in quick succession. Furthermore, this age group seems to react less than any other to programs common to the more established social agency.

Activities. Response of young men of this type we have found mainly to be through major sport competition — baseball, basketball, football and hockey. Independently arranged games in these sports between rival street corner groups are seldom satisfactory to them for obvious reasons; team managers rarely give their right age and standing in seeking games through newspaper notices or by telephone, and the officials they choose are generally of the home team variety with home team interests. On the other hand, an organized, a supervised schedule, if promoted with extreme regard for system and fairness, brings a quick and extensive response from independent teams. I have always been told that organized football could not be carried on successfully with this group, but we have found a much more satisfactory response from teams in this sport than in any other. Because our football season has come so close upon our strenuous summer program we have never been able to make it as extensive as baseball or basketball, but before the season was half over this year we were besieged by teams who had not entered our leagues begging for an opportunity to play with teams with whom they had never played a satisfactory game or never had been able to meet at all, in order to play under conditions we could offer, viz., neutral officials, neutral playing fields, protection of their games from the crowd.

Organization. I believe recreation systems must come to realize that to make these programs reach this group they must employ someone who is not strictly a playground director, but who is an organizer and visits these young men at their "hang-outs," their club rooms, their street corners. It has been a high-powered salesmanship job to enlist 290 teams in Boston summer baseball, and no one will realize what an extensive canvassing job it was to bring them in. It has been a help to organization in some instances to bring together a local committee in the different sports, made up of older men whose past sport records or prestige gave us an entree to the teams in their district; they are valuable also in checking team registrations and assisting in the strict enforcement of rules. But the most important point in our organization of these older boys has been, I believe, in meeting them on their own footing.

Organizing personnel. We have been extremely fortunate in our work with these young men in Boston, to have an organizer who has knowledge of street corner group psychology (having gone through the mill himself). Because of his background he has been able to achieve results little short of phenomenal. His telephone conversation, his personal interviews, concede everything to the team manager with whom he is talking but actually relinquish nothing. He meets them on their own ground, and has become so firmly established that there are few teams in any sport in the city who do not know just exactly where they stand with him. He holds the teams up to the highest standards of play and his decisions at critical times have weathered the strictest tests. A league director and two organizers can handle this end of the work, but the right choice of these workers is very important.

Administration of the leagues. A re-registration of the teams in each sport in which they participate checks their rosters and makes possible enforcement of rigid registration requirements. The

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National Recreation Day

By Weaver W. Pangburn

National Recreation Association

THE eighteenth annual play and dance festival of the playground children of Allentown, Pennsylvania, had come to a close. Suddenly the six thousand children formed into position and spelled the words, "Hoover's Message," each playground forming a letter. Then, in the presence of fifteen thousand spectators, including city officials and other prominent citizens who were guests of General and Mrs. Henry C. Trexler, founders of the festival, the President's message was read to the children.

Commenting on the message under the title, "At His Best," the *Boston Post* said among other things: "No President of whom we have any memory could have said just that in just that way. It proves that Mr. Hoover has a big heart and that the recreation idea is not alone cherished by him as a personal thing, but that he knows its value to the country in every way. As a friend of children he has won his place in our national life, and it is very high."

Called "national recreation day," "Hoover playground day," or "playground day," August 14 was given over to the celebration of the silver anniversary of the National Recreation Association in 476 cities in every section of the United States. Pageants, athletic and swimming contests, play days, musical programs, plays, exhibits of handcrafts, playground circuses, parades, formal exercises, ceremonies awarding honors and

prizes, and dances, interpreted or depicted the work of public recreation. Accompanied by copious newspaper publicity, the occasion drew the attention of millions of men and women to the achievements of public playgrounds for American childhood. While sponsored principally by municipal recreation agencies,

celebrations were in some communities conducted in whole or in part by Lions, Kiwanis, or Rotary Clubs, the American Legion, Parent-Teacher Associations, Chambers of Commerce, and other civic organizations.

Numerous public officials joined President Hoover in greeting the children and praising the work of the public playgrounds. Governor Parnell of Arkansas sent the

following message: "To the Boys and Girls of Arkansas: On the twenty-fifth anniversary of the National Recreation Association, the people of Arkansas are glad that their boys and girls are enjoying the playgrounds, swimming pools, athletic fields, and beaches throughout the state. Civic leaders and school authorities are realizing more every day that in the changing living conditions in our country, recreation is very important. On this day I am glad to call the attention of the people of Arkansas to the sports and games and all activities that will tend to make boys and girls healthier and happier."

Governor Spaulding of New Hampshire gave the prizes awarded winners in the sports program

To the Boys and Girls of America

Two and a half million of you are playing today in the playgrounds of nearly a thousand cities. Your elders rejoice with you in your fun and freckles, your sports and games and all that goes into making you happy and healthy boys and girls. Your zest in life is a precious possession and your laughter makes a joyous chorus throughout the land.

Thousands of devoted men and women under the leadership of the National Recreation Association have labored for a quarter of a century to provide the playgrounds which you enjoy. We rejoice with you and with them in this boon to the boyhood and girlhood of our country.

Herbert Hoover



Courtesy Recreation Department, Parkersburg, W. Va.

Observances of many kinds marked the twenty-fifth birthday of the National Recreation Association.

conducted in Rochester, N. H. Mayors McMurray of Altoona, Pa.; Jackson of Baltimore; Brown of Concord, N. H.; Snively of Duluth, Minn.; Kitchel of Englewood, N. J.; Monteith of Houston, Texas; Frankson of Hibbing, Minn.; Metzger of Lancaster, Pa.; Pollock of Leonia, N. J.; Fisher (acting) of Little Rock, Arkansas; McLinn of New Albany, Indiana, and Hart of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., among others participated in the local celebrations.

Programs Impressive

There is space here to mention only a few of the celebrations, some of them unique, others typical of what took place in many cities. In Baltimore a boy and a girl from each playground in the care of their leaders from the Playground Athletic League and wearing paper caps and badges bearing the names of their playgrounds, marched to the city hall, singing their playground songs. Each child carried gas filled balloons of red, white and blue. The mayor greeted them on the steps of the municipal building while a band played, "Baltimore, Our Baltimore." To each child the mayor gave a package of cards bearing the President's message to be distributed to their

playmates on the playgrounds. Then, the balloons were released, tagged with the inscription: "This balloon was released from city hall, Baltimore, Maryland, on the presentation of President Hoover's message to the playground children. Will the finder notify the P. A. L., 7 Mulberry Street, stating when and where found?"

In Hammond, Indiana, four thousand boys and girls participated in the following activities: woodcraft and sewing exhibits, running and novelty races, swimming contests, life-saving exhibitions, checkers, ball throw, high jump, broad jump, horseshoe and model airplane contests. Harvest day ceremonies observed the anniversary in Washington, D. C., and in several Virginia cities. In Evansville, Indiana, ten thousand spectators witnessed the separate programs of each playground. The activities drew many persons who had not previously visited the playgrounds.

On each playground in Norwalk, Connecticut, the children exhibited model playgrounds and doll houses which they had made in preparation for the anniversary. Members of the Recreation Commission judged the work for originality, furnishing, and neatness. An annual story-telling festival was initiated and the history of the National Recreation Association was reviewed. Two features of the celebration in Dallas were the playing of the LaSalle violin orchestra and a program of one-act plays by children under twelve. The children of the municipal playgrounds of Cleveland staged their seventh foreign "tour," through the medium of folk stories, dances, and

singing games. Czecho-Slovakia was the theme. Fifty thousand children received the President's cards.

At the playgrounds of Glens Falls, New York, awards were made the children for sporting events, national standard efficiency tests, good housekeeping, and the best neighborhood cooperation exhibited. Charles Gelman, chairman of the recreation commission, presided, and Miss Ruth Sherburne, supervisor of recreation, spoke of the history of the local playgrounds, the establishment of the National Recreation Association, and the part that the Presidents of the United States from Roosevelt on had played in sponsoring the movement.

Although the Kansas City, Missouri, playgrounds were for the second season unopened, a special committee headed by George Tinker, former playground director, arranged swimming and play programs in honor of the anniversary. Y. M. C. A., Settlements, and Boy and Girl Scout leaders cooperated. The Rotary Club sponsored the program in Mangum and Greer Counties, Oklahoma. Playground children of Columbia, South Carolina, in connection with their program lighted a huge birthday cake with twenty-five candles. The four playgrounds of Fairhaven, Massachusetts, joined the celebration with an annual vehicle parade of scooters, bicycles, tricycles, and carts, many beautifully decorated, a parade of horrors, and competitive sports.

To the recreation director in Troy, New York, came the following invitation, printed on a double folder of black paper with a border of sealing wax:

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

We take this time to thank you
For all that you have done
In making us so happy,
In letting us have fun.
And so we join in sending our appreciation, too,
From every heart in Warren Park,
Anniversary greetings to you.

This message was from the most poorly equipped playground in the city. It is evidence that the children had caught the spirit of the occasion. In Middletown, Connecticut, the recreation superintendent observed the children looking skyward early in the afternoon of the fourteenth of August. They were much excited. A rumor had spread that President Hoover was to come in person by airplane to read a message to the Middletown playground children.

Celebration Highly Educative

Undoubtedly the greatest value of national recreation day, held with few exceptions simultaneously in hundreds of cities, was the education of the public in the extent and value of public playground programs, and in the part played in the recreation movement by the national association. In Los Angeles, Tarrytown, New York, Wilkes-Barre and other cities, the programs were planned primarily to inform the parents concerning the playground activities in which their children were engaged, and special effort was made to bring them to the playgrounds. In Los Angeles the day was the beginning of a two-weeks' program of this educational character. Of course, wherever children were taking part in programs, many of the parents were present. In New Albany, Indiana, a tour of the playgrounds was made by the mayor, city councilmen, members of the school and the recreation boards.

In scores of cities lengthy newspaper accounts reviewed the history of the local playgrounds and their popularity. A number of them, for example, Morristown, New Jersey, outlined existing needs for the improvement and further development of the playgrounds. The occasion inspired a number of mayors to declare themselves on the extension of playground facilities, as well as to interpret the community service of the program.

In Wheeling, West Virginia, two evenings were given to public addresses by educators and city officials. In two cities where the playgrounds were closed (because of "lack of funds"), the President's message was nevertheless distributed, and there was extensive newspaper publicity centering attention on the unfortunate fact of the closed playgrounds.

The contributions of the organized playground to health, character growth, and safety were frequently emphasized. "If public officials and public-spirited citizens continue to make the progress in the next twenty-five years in the field of public recreation that they have made in the past, many problems now confronting city governments, such as juvenile delinquency, will be solved in a large measure," stated Walter S. Schmidt, president of the recreation commission of Covington, Ky.

One of the directors of the Bridgeton, New Jersey, playground association declared that in all the seventeen years the local playgrounds had been open, only one serious accident had taken place on the grounds. The value of leadership was also frequently pointed out.

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Fall Forest Activities for Recreation Leaders

By Marie F. Heisley

Forest Service, U. S. Department of
Agriculture

WHEN is play in the open more thrilling than on a bright fall day when painted leaves are dancing in golden sunlight under what are perhaps the bluest skies of the year, and when the air is redolent of the harvest? Week-ends at camp or in the country, picnics, rides, hikes and other of the summer outings are still the order of the day, but are enhanced by the gorgeousness of the fall symphony, which is all the more fascinating because it is only of short duration and the bleak days of winter are just ahead. It is no wonder, then, that we lose no opportunity to slip away from our daily tasks and revel in the glory of the great outdoors.

Nutting Parties

The autumn woods, in addition to their beauty, afford many other delights. Not the least of these is the large variety of edibles highly prized by woods connoisseurs that forest trees supply. First in importance come the native nuts, beechnuts, butternuts, chestnuts and chinquapins, hazelnuts, several kinds of hickory nuts, including pecans, and walnuts. All of these are highly nutritious and toothsome, and are favorites with old as well as young. All except the chestnut are still fairly abundant. The crop of chestnuts is being

reduced each year by the chestnut blight, or bark disease, which is gradually killing out the tree.

Nutting parties have been popular fall outings for many generations of Americans. Although today the nutting party is possibly more popular in rural communities where the woods are close

When the first frost sharpens the air only a good vigorous tramp will satisfy the lover of nature



Photo by U. S. Forest Service

at hand than in larger towns and cities, many of us still roam the woods in the fall in search of forest "goodies." And our efforts are apt to be rewarded, although the nut trees are becoming scarcer as urban development progresses. But even though our harvest may be small, our hunt for the hidden treasures of the woods has afforded a delightful day spent in the open. Whether we are one of a party or alone in our search, however, it is always well to remember to take care that we do not trespass on private land, or destroy property, and to be an all around good sportsman.

Of the other edible fruits of forest trees, perhaps the best-known is the persimmon, which is edible only after it is thoroughly ripe. As this is usually not until late in the fall, it is commonly thought that the fruit must be frost-bitten before it is fit to eat. Some fruits of forest trees which ripen in the fall are wild crab apples, mulberries, and the fruit of the hackberry, or sugar berry, as it is called in the south. Many people also like the fruit of the shad bush, "sarvice barry," or June berry, as it has been variously named.

Thoughts for Tramps in the Autumn Woods

When you go on a tramp in the woods notice the ground cover, or forest floor, as the forester calls it. On the top you will find a layer of this year's leaves and under it the dried leaves of last year. Farther down are succeeding layers of decayed and decaying leaves of preceding years until the leaf litter merges with the soil. It is this decomposition of the leaves which enriches the top layers of the forest soil. Although the food which has been prepared in the cell cavities of the leaves is sent back to the tree, the mineral substances with which the walls of the cells have become impregnated during the summer are retained. Therefore, when the leaves fall they contain relatively large amounts of valuable elements, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, which were originally part of the soil. With the decay of the leaves, these elements are returned to the soil. This is why the black mellow earth from the forest floor is so fertile.

If fires are allowed to run through the forest

and the leaves are burned, the most valuable fertilizing elements are changed by the heat into gases and escape into the air. As a result, forests which are burned-over regularly soon lose their soil fertility even if no apparent damage is done to the standing timber.

Look for signs of fire in the woods. What have fires done to the forest floor? Have they made any apparent changes in the soil? Have they damaged the large trees to any extent? What have they done to the young growth? How

do the burned-over parts of the woods compare with those from which fire has kept out?

Colored Leaf Prints

How about making a collection of autumn leaves in their different fancy dresses? This may be accomplished by making colored leaf prints in the following manner: 1. Mix oil paints of the colors of the leaf you want to print.

2. Paint the under side of the leaf to exactly match the upper side. Work quickly so that the first colors will not dry before the last ones are put on. 3. Place leaf, painted side down, on a sheet of white paper with another sheet on top. 4. Holding leaf immovable, rub it hard with roller or fingers. When the upper sheet of paper and the leaf are removed, there will remain a copy of the form and colors of the original leaf. Black and white leaf prints can be made by using ink instead of paint. These, of course, will not be as beautiful as those made in colors. A scrap book of leaf prints with the names and descriptions of the parent trees will make an interesting volume for any boy or girl to own. Colored leaf prints would also make an attractive addition to a community center exhibit.

Many people suppose that Jack Frost is responsible for the leaves changing color, but he is not. The change is really a preparation for winter. All during the summer months the leaves serve as factories where the foods necessary for the trees' growth have been manufactured. This food making takes place in numberless tiny cells of the leaf and is carried on by small green bodies which give the leaf its color. These chlorophyll bodies, as they are called, together with heat and light from the sun, make the food of the tree by combining carbon taken from the carbonic acid

**Bending above the spicy woods which blaze,
Arch skies so blue they flash, and hold the sun
Immeasurably far; the waters run
Too slow, so freighted are the river-ways
With gold of elms and birches from the maze
Of forests. Chestnuts, clicking one and one,
Escape from satin burrs; her fringes done,
The gentian spreads them out in sunny days,
And, like late revelers at dawn the chance
Of one sweet, mad, last hour, all things assail,
And conquering, flush and spin; while, to enhance
The spell, by sunset door, wrapped in a veil
Of red and purple mists, the summer pale,
Steals back alone for one more song and dance.**

—Helen Hunt Jackson

gas of the air with hydrogen, oxygen and various minerals supplied by the water which the roots gather. In the fall when the cool weather causes a slowing down of the vital processes, the work of the leaves comes to an end. The machinery of the leaf factory is dismantled, so to speak, the chlorophyll is broken up into the various substances of which it is composed, and whatever food there is on hand is sent to the body of the tree to be stored up for use in the spring. All that remains in the cell cavities of the leaf is a watery substance in which a few oil globules and crystals, and a small number of yellow, strongly refractive bodies, can be seen. These give the leaves the yellow coloring so familiar in the autumnal foliage.

It often happens that there is more sugar in the leaf than can readily be transferred back to the tree. When this is the case, the chemical combination with the other substances produces many colored tints varying from the brilliant red of the dogwood to the more austere red-browns of the oaks. In coniferous trees which do not lose their foliage in the fall, the green coloring matter takes on a slightly brownish tinge, which gives way to the lighter color in the spring.

Community Photograph Contests

Almost everyone who nowadays seeks recreation in the open carries a camera, with the result that in most communities at the end of the summer are large numbers of recreation photographs of varying degrees of merit. Since most amateur photographers are proud of their pictures and usually eager to show them, a community photograph contest would probably find a general response. The pictures entered in such a contest might be those showing the various phases of forest recreation or forest study carried on by recreational groups. The following is a suggested list of the subjects that might be covered:

- Tree Studies
- Forest Studies
- Tree Plantings
- Nutting Parties
- Camps
- Camp Fire Stories or Meetings
- Nature Trails and Hikes
- Camp Fire Building

THE RED ENEMY A. H. Sylvester

Forests,
And streams,
Think of the first,
The others come to mind.
Take forests away,
The others disappear.
The greatest enemy of them all
Is that first enemy of the Arch Fiend,
Who runs without feet,
Who strikes without hands,
Who eats without mouth,
Who takes without giving,
Who leaps and strikes,
Devouring as he goes,
The Red Enemy,
Fire.
(From "Forest Fire and Other Verse"
by John D. Guthrie)

Forest Fires and Their Effects Upon Recreation

Game and Wild Animals

Winter Activities in the Woods

Photographs could be submitted individually or in groups, and arranged in classes and prizes given for the best of each class. The details of the contest would, of course, have to be worked out by the community center. An exhibit of the best photographs received in the contest would also have a rather wide appeal.

Fall Arbor Day Celebrations

Some few of the states, especially those in which the fall season is best for tree planting, celebrate Arbor Day in the fall. Still others have both spring and fall Arbor Days. Whether in spring or fall, Arbor Day always affords opportunity for special playground or community activities such as forest plays or pageants, tree plantings and forest sings. Below is given a list of the states which celebrate Arbor Day in the fall. If your state is one of these, why not put on a special Arbor Day program this fall?

Georgia—First Friday in December.

Hawaii—In November, before the winter rains; by proclamation of the Governor.

Illinois—Observes two days; April and October; proclamation of the Governor.

Kentucky—In the fall; by proclamation of the Governor.

Mississippi—December or February; law authorizes State Board of Education to fix date.

Pennsylvania—In the spring, by proclamation of the Governor, and in the fall by authorization of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Philippine Islands—Usually late in September or early in October, by proclamation of Governor.

Porto Rico—Last Friday in November.

South Carolina—Third Friday in November.

Fall Tree Planting

Arbor Day, of course, means tree planting, and if the playground or any other section of the community needs trees, furnishes an excellent opportunity for planting them. Although it may seem that spring is the logical time for tree



Photo by U. S. Forest Service

planting, in many localities it may also be done successfully in the fall. This is true in a general way of the eastern third

of this country from Chicago eastward, except Michigan, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, and northern New York, and the eastern half of the southern United States as far west as Texas, except the semi-tropical portions of Florida. Fall planting should be done after the summer growth slows down and before the ground becomes frozen.

The trees to be planted should be of some species natural to the locality. In deciding what kinds to plant, however, it would be well to get the advice of the city parks department or shade tree commission or your State Forester. Information as to where and how to obtain trees for planting may also be obtained from these sources.

When planting trees, do not thrust them into a rough soil at random and expect them to flourish. They should be set out in well-worked soil, well enriched. And their roots should not be allowed to dry out. Evergreens, in particular, which are always planted with a base of earth about the roots, are very easily killed by allowing the roots to become dry. Before planting, the ends of all broken or mutilated roots should be cut off. Broadleaf trees should be pruned to a few main branches which in turn should be shortened. Evergreens should not be pruned.

There is nothing more enjoyable than a hike through the woods on a brisk day in early fall.

Dig the holes about 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet deep. If the soil is poor, the holes should be 4 feet in diameter. The sides should be perpendicular and the bottom flat. Break up the soil in the bottom to the depth of the spade, and spread over it 12 or 15 inches of good topsoil, free from sods or other undecomposed vegetable matter. On the top of this layer spread out the roots of the tree with none of them in a cramped position and cover them with 2 or 3 inches of fine topsoil. Firm the soil about the roots, water lightly, and after the water soaks in fill the hole with good earth, continuing to firm it, but leaving the surface loose and a little higher than the surface of the surrounding soil.

It is well to bear in mind that responsibility for the tree does not end with the planting, for the care of planted trees until they are well-established, is as important as the planting operation itself. Shade and ornamental trees should be watered frequently, and in places where there is danger of their being injured such as on playgrounds, should be properly equipped with a guard and stake. If we neglect the trees we plant, the fruits of our labor are apt to be thrown away, while well-cared for trees will be a source of pride and inspiration to the whole community. And not only the community but the nation will benefit from the planting and proper care of trees, for in view of the diminishing crop of timber they are a great national necessity.

Recreation on the Canadian National Railways

By Sir Henry W. Thornton,
K.B.E.



The head of this great transportation system is no theorist in recreation!

THE Canadian National Recreation League, comprising probably the largest body of men and women, organized for recreation and sports purposes in the Dominion of Canada, draws its membership from nearly one hundred thousand men and women, employees of the Canadian National Railways in Canada, the Grand Trunk Western Lines and Central Vermont Lines in the United States. Its activities cover the entire field of sports. Football, baseball, track and field sports, rifle shooting, bowling, golf and tennis are among the outdoor sports in which its members participate. In addition there are indoor activities — games, social gatherings, musical events and a host of other affairs which are encouraged during the time when outdoor sports are confined to those which may be followed on snow and ice-covered surfaces. Nearly one hundred associations, brought together in the Canadian National Recreation League, are active during the entire twelve months of the year, in localities ranging from Halifax on the Atlantic Coast to Vancouver and Prince Rupert at the Pacific, and from Chicago, south of the International Boundary to The Pas — up where the North begins.

Recent years have brought about a new consideration of recreation in industry. With the introduction of shorter working hours, the employee is given more time to play, and employers the world over have recognized that opportunities for healthful play and recreation are of equal importance with sanitary and healthful working conditions.

Thus, unsightly areas in the neighborhood of railroad yards and shops have been turned into playing fields, largely by the efforts of the employees themselves, encouraged to make use of the land for the purpose of recreation. Esprit de corps and a sense of co-operating with one's fellow-workers are built up on the recreation fields perhaps better in many instances than elsewhere. The spirit of the game demands team-work, and it is team-work that permits the welding of men and women into an efficient organization, whether for play or in the business world.

Canada is a young country, its population comparatively sparse and far-flung, and as yet composed of people who have not, in the main,

reached that stage of affluence where they can enjoy lengthy periods of leisure for recreation purposes. The average Canadian has been brought up to work hard, and when he plays, he plays as hard as he works. This perhaps explains the high standing which has been gained by individual Canadians in the fields of international sport.

Serving this great Dominion is the Canadian National Railways System, with some 23,000 miles of line. In many cases these lines are at the very edge of the wilderness. Railway employees frequently comprise the entire population of the communities in which they live, for in the operation of a railway system such as the Canadian National, divisional points must be laid out with regard to the problems of operating the railway. The town grows around the railway station shops or other activities, and consequently it becomes necessary on occasion for the railway company to consider not only the working conditions of its employees but also the living conditions and the improvement of such recreational and social activities as may exist.

It is in its service to the residents of these "outposts of railway service" rather than to the residents of populous cities that the recreational efforts of the Canadian National Railways have been a boon. Baseball, football and hockey teams, wearing the railway's colors in a metropolis such as Montreal, are important in their development of a certain spirit among the railway employees as a whole, but much more important are the activities encouraged among the residents of some frontier railroad divisional point, where almost everything and everyone depends upon the railway. At these points social life and play are encouraged by the association with good results. The Superintendent at Edson, Alberta—a railway divisional point in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies—expressed the thought of the distant "railway town" and its inhabitants when he stated in a letter that "until the League became active, positively no social life of real value existed. The activities of the League have entirely changed the outlook of the people."

The Canadian National Recreation League was brought into being in October, 1927, at a time when there were fifteen associations entirely separate from each other on the Railway System. In about three years the associations had grown to ninety-seven, and were united in their enterprise through a central directing and guiding office located at Headquarters in charge of a director of recreation. In this recreational movement across

a continent and sponsored by an industry, it was important that paternalistic methods should not be adopted, but at the same time it was necessary to encourage and control the play desires of nearly one hundred thousand employees. The best proof that the methods adopted were successful has been the enormous increase, due almost entirely to the efforts of the employees themselves. This has been most noticeable in the smaller isolated communities. At many points along what is termed the north line of the Canadian National Railways there now exists social and play life where previously time hung very heavily on the hands of the few people who lived at these places.

The railway serves three classes of communities:

1. Where the community practically gets its entire livelihood from the railways.
2. Where the railway employees form a large proportion of the population.
3. Where their numbers are negligible in larger cities.

In view of the fact that the railway employees are the entire community in the smaller places, it falls upon them not alone to provide the necessary government, but also to provide desirable community life. It is at such places that the Canadian National Recreation League has been able to encourage social life and play for both young and old with surprisingly good results. There is not a single point where the ninety-seven associations forming the League cannot show some benefit to the railway employees themselves and to the communities in which they exist. Not only in athletics, but also in other recreational features—music, the arts and others—has the League taken a hand. There are in existence today under the auspices of the Canadian National Recreation League six brass bands, seven concert or symphony orchestras, three fully equipped pipe bands, one choral society and six minstrel troupes. While the performances of some of these musical aggregations have been outstanding, their greatest value has been their contribution to community life.

Another contribution which the Canadian National Recreation League has made has been that of rendering assistance and furthering the work of the national sports bodies and such others as deal with what might be expressed as higher athletics. The League is the only industrial unit in the world to be empowered to issue amateur registration cards. This is an excellent example of the esteem in which the League is held.

"You Can Make It"—

A Happy Slogan

Unlimited possibilities for developing talent are to be found in a "You Can Make It" Contest.

PRESIDENT HOOVER extended his personal greetings to "You Can Make It" contest winners of three states who called at the White House, Wednesday, April 8. The three youths whose excellency in wood handicraft work resulted in their winning free trips to the national capital include Thorleif Knudtzen of Carroll playground, Oak Park, Illinois; Wilfred Schurink of the Mobile, Alabama, playgrounds, and George Easter of Jacksonville, Florida.

The "You Can Make It" contests were sponsored by newspapers, playground associations and other organizations cooperating with the National Committee on Wood Utilization of the Department of Commerce in its campaign to bring about an intelligent utilization of both new and discarded lumber.

To win the contests in their respective districts, the lads displayed unusual ability in wood craftsmanship. At Oak Park, young Thorleif constructed a "Karrosse," or a miniature carriage, entirely hand carved and containing only one piece of metal, a small pin fastening the front wheels to the carriage.

A neatly designed jardiniere and a pedestal of many colored woods were the prize winning entries of 12-year-old Wilfred Schurink of Mobile. The jardiniere, and its stand, rising approximately three feet from its floor base, is outstanding in that it is constructed of miscellaneous bits of wood and beautifully finished in a dozen different colors. The article was constructed out of whittled pieces of discarded crates.

Interest in the Florida contest was so great that an Air Transport Company issued a complimentary round trip ticket to Mr. Easter to assure him of the trip to Washington. Young Easter ex-



Courtesy the American City

Prize winners in the Louisville "You Can Make It" Contest, typical of young Americans everywhere working with the Government

hibited marked ability in the construction of a speed boat which he made from second-hand packing boxes and crates. The boat, 16 feet long, necessitated an expenditure of only \$1.30. It is driven by an outboard motor and is capable of making a speed of 22 miles per hour.

Commenting on the "You Can Make It" contest staged in Oak Park, Illinois, Miss Josephine Blackstock, Director, Playground Board, says: "We feel that the contest was so successful last summer that we will put on another one on the playgrounds this coming summer." After staging two "You Can Make It" contests on Mobile, Alabama, playgrounds, Mrs. Carl A. Klinge, Superintendent, Recreation Department, advises that she is as enthusiastic as ever about the contests which will be repeated next year.

Many of the contestants obtained ideas and plans for their entries from the series of "You Can Make It" booklets published by the Committee. These booklets entitled "You Can Make It," Volume I, and "You Can Make It For Camp and Cottage" contain plans for constructing hundreds of useful articles for both the home and cottage. They may be obtained from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 10 cents a copy. "You Can Make It For Camp and Cottage," which sells at the rate of \$3.50 a hundred copies, contains valuable information concerning bird house construction and location which

(Continued on page 410)

RECREATION

The World at Play is published each month to keep you in touch with new developments everywhere. It is a cooperative undertaking. "Recreation" urges all its readers to send in items regarding recreational happenings in their communities.

World at Play

Table Games and Chess Clubs

In Detroit, Michigan, the Department of Recreation has organized table game clubs in which boys are encouraged to make table games, such as baseball games, football games, peg solitaire, fox and geese, bean bag boards, puzzle games, ring toss and pool boards. In many centers there are no gymnasiums, but available floor space for carrying on table game clubs. Such games as checkers, Lindy, Flag, authors, touring, pit, snap, boy scout, Halma, anagrams and Wing are supplied by the Department. When a boy becomes a good checker player he is invited to become a member of a chess club, a number of which are conducted from October until May. Elimination tournaments are held and the best players of each club compete for the championship of the city.

A Harvest Festival

A Harvest Festival of Many Lands was the name given the festival presented on July 31st under the auspices of the Milwaukee Public Schools, Extension Department, with the cooperation of the foreign born groups of Milwaukee at the Siefert Social Center Playground. Introduced by a procession of nations, folk dancing and singing by a number of foreign born groups made up the greater part of the program. In the final number, entitled *United All*, more than twenty nationalities were represented by individuals who were former or present members of some Milwaukee social center English or citizenship class.

Community Center Demonstrations

In March and April a number of recreation departments and school boards completed their community center season with demonstrations. The first public demonstration of evening recreation activities of Somerville, Massachusetts, was held on March 23rd under the auspices of the Recreation Commission. Folk dancing, basketball, calisthenics, tumbling, music, both instrumental and vocal, social games, tap dancing, a one-act play and a minstrel show completed the program.

The sixth annual community center frolic of Cleveland, Ohio, brought to a close the activities of the community centers conducted by the Board of Education. Sponsors of the frolic included the Inter-Community Center Council, which works with the Board of Education in administering the centers, and the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. The queen of the frolic, escorted to her throne by heralds, presided over the program in which activities of all kinds were demonstrated.

Play and Delinquency

City officials of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, believe it is due to the influence of the recreation programs conducted by the Extension Department of the Public Schools that Milwaukee's rate on burglar insurance is lower than that in cities generally, that the city is freer from crime than it formerly was, there is less labor trouble and the juvenile delinquency rate has been reduced.

Recreation for "Oldsters"

Members of the Borrowed Time Club of Oak Park, Illinois, ranging in age from seventy to one hundred years, are finding opportunity for social recreation through the monster outdoor checker-board constructed in the center of the village through the cooperation of Gustav A. Lindberg, superintendent of the Oak Park district.

The checkers proper are made of basswood approximately 12 inches in diameter and 4 inches thick. These discs are lifted with a specially designed hook attached to a sawed off golf club, the checkers being hollowed out at the center and a steel pin inserted across the opening. The discs are moved slowly and the play does not require too much vigor. It is planned to place concrete seats around the checker-board which is located on the sloping ground so that the game may be easily watched by a number of fans. From the interest shown in this outdoor checker game the village Park Board feels that the small investment required is well repaid by the enthusiasm and enjoyment of the elderly men who play.



Courtesy of The American City

Leadership Training in Omaha

On January 21st the University of Omaha, Nebraska, became the *Municipal University of Omaha*. In the reorganization which followed the Department of Sociology and Social Work was made one of the eight leading departments of the institution, with Dr. T. Earl Sullenger, head of the new department. Dr. Sullenger will also direct local research projects and serve as director of the Bureau of Social Research. Arrangements have been made whereby all students enrolled in child welfare and interested in playground work may secure an additional credit for two hours' work on the demonstration playground. Special lectures will be given by local and national authorities on recreation.

A Broadcast of Athletic Lectures

The Public Schools Athletic League of New York announces that at 12:45 P. M. each Saturday from October 31st to April 23rd there will be broadcast a summary of the Wingate Memorial Athletic Lectures, which will be presented this fall and winter. The League is also planning to make a very inexpensive transcript of the full proceedings at each lecture demonstration, which will be distributed at cost to all requesting it.

School Centers in Pontiac

The use of school buildings for recreational purposes by the Recreation Division, Pontiac, Michigan, has increased seven-fold since the Board of Education allowed the Department to use the buildings without charge. Previous to the season of 1929-30, the Board of Education made a charge of \$7.50 per night for the use of gymnasiums. To meet this cost the Recreation Division charged an admission fee of 25 cents per person. As a result the only activity carried on in school buildings was the City Basketball League. The attendance at this activity in 1928-29 totaled 6,840 people. In October, 1929, the Board of Education decided to allow the Recreation Division to use all gymnasiums without any charge. During this season 54 organizations held 212 meetings with a total attendance of 16,340.



"CHICAGO"

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"CHICAGO" Equipment is slightly higher in price, but is far more economical—for it is safer, stronger, and more serviceable.

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TABLE-TENNIS EQUIPMENT sold in sets of various types and individual parts at amazingly low prices. Table covers and containers for the above equipment. Backgammon, Giant Backgammon, Chess, Checker Boards, Lot-tos, Combination Boards, Crokinole Boards and separate equipment, etc. Also other popular games.

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Send full particulars of your experience. All in confidence.

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CARE RECREATION

315 Fourth Ave., New York, N. Y.

The winter season of 1930-31 showed a 100 per cent increased over the previous year. Sixty-nine organizations used the buildings 317 times with a total attendance of 42,465 at the increased number of activities. In addition to the basketball league for men, two other basketball leagues for men, one of which was colored, were organized. Two basketball leagues for white girls and one for colored were conducted. Other activities include three men's gymnasium classes, a volley ball league, an indoor soccer league, a bridge class, an indoor tennis club and a badminton club. A community party was held once a month for colored citizens. During the last two seasons of use of school buildings by the Recreation Division the only damage to property was the breaking of one light globe in one building.

Child Study Association of America to Hold Conference.— Social and economic changes; how the college is meeting them and their effect upon man and woman in the marriage relation; research in family life—these and other topics will be discussed at the two day conference to be held under the auspices of the Child Study Association of America in New York City on October 19th and 20th. Further information may be secured from the Child Study Association at 221 West 57th Street, New York City.

Activities in Middle Western Cities.— Teams from Detroit, Michigan, and cities nearby participated during the week of August 24th to 28th in baseball, playground ball, volley ball, tennis, horseshoes, track and field contests. The recreation executives of the metropolitan district around Detroit will get together from time to time to consider policies and rules for contests, to discuss activities and to do better recreation work in the cities represented. These cities are Ann Arbor, Dearborn, Detroit, East Detroit, Grosse Pointe, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Pontiac and Windsor.

Lansing's First Sport and Field Day.— "Recreation Steadies Lansing" is the way the *Lansing State Journal* headed its editorial commending the first sport and field day in Lansing's history on July 10th. Organized by the Recreation Department and aimed to give everyone a chance both to play themselves as well as enjoy watching others, the program began with a parade of about a thousand playground children shortly after noon, followed by an industrial track meet.

C. J. Atkinson Retires

AT the recent convention of the Boys Club Federation in Washington, C. J. Atkinson announced his retirement from the active management.

For nearly twenty years C. J. Atkinson as executive secretary of the Boys Club Federation has worked closely and sympathetically with the N. R. A. When Mr. Atkinson came from Toronto to take his position with the Federation, his office adjoined the office of the N. R. A. in the Metropolitan Building and the leaders of the Association have always felt very sure of his understanding of recreation problems and of his readiness to help.

Under the leadership of Mr. Atkinson, the Boys Club movement has grown from an enrollment of thirty clubs with about 25,000 boys as members until now there are 258 clubs with an enrollment of approximately 251,000 boys.

No one could know C. J. Atkinson without feeling that he has lived much, that he knows many phases of life, that he is not fooled by what appears on the surface. We have known him always as an honest and courageous fighter for the boys. Mr. Atkinson, after a summer in Europe, will return to the United States, where he will continue to be affiliated with the Boys Club Federation as honorary secretary.

HOWARD BRAUCHER

(Continued from page 402)

a golf tournament, a horseshoe pitching tournament, tennis matches and a rattling good twelve inning ball game going on simultaneously at the various parks in the afternoon. Early in the evening the finals in the city amateur championship boxing matches were held, followed about dark by a playground baseball game for girls. The new lighting equipment on this playfield made possible the extension of the sports day until after ten o'clock. The other evening event was moving pictures in another section of the city. There were no charges for any of the events. The City Hall and leading industrial plants closed at noon. The day had been announced by posters and liberal newspaper articles, and the facilities at all the events were filled to capacity. As the editorial referred to said, "Doubtless nothing the city could do could so well serve to heighten, steady and direct what may be termed the public morale."

C. B. Raitt

IN the death of C. B. Raitt on August 7th, the recreation movement in America lost one of its early and able pioneers.

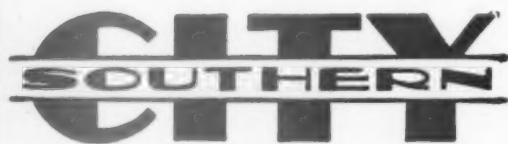
On February 1, 1905, he became the first superintendent of play and recreation of the Playground and Recreation Department of the City of Los Angeles, California—one of the first cities in America to establish a separate municipal department of play and recreation. During the course of his long service of over twenty years as superintendent he guided the development of public play and recreation from one small center to a system of play and recreation centers of commanding importance not only in his own city but also of very great significance and importance to the whole public recreation movement in this country.

He was of the stuff of which pioneers are made—rugged, cautious, courageous, indomitable, intelligent, painstaking and absolutely devoted and loyal to the cause to which he gave the best years of his life. His integrity was unimpeachable; his personal habits such as to set a high example to the children and young people under his charge. He was a public servant against whom there was never a breath of scandal and whose honesty was never questioned in the administration of his high office. He never swerved from the path of duty as he saw it. To the end of his public life he remained true to the principle that a public office is a public trust to be administered with an even stricter regard to honesty and devotedness than in one's private affairs.

Their Very Own.—In West Orange, New Jersey, there is a playground in the heart of the Italian district which the neighborhood people to an unusual degree feel belongs to them. Visiting this ground at 9:30 one morning, the district representative of the N. R. A. found a group of little girls under the direction of one girl not much larger, scrubbing, sweeping, and vigorously cleaning the girls' showers and lavatories, while a number of boys were equally active on their side of the ground. Other children were on the ball diamond, sweeping and marking and trimming the grass, and still others were picking up papers and sweeping the ground. The ground belongs to the neighborhood and no one feels it more keenly than the children. Winter and summer this place is their club and center.

▲▲▲ The constant progress of a billion dollar field is accurately and interestingly reflected in the pages of "Southern City." ▲▲▲

▲▲▲ Here you will find news of the latest activities of public officials throughout the South—news of undertakings accomplished and plans for future activities.



DIXIE'S ONLY SOUTHWIDE
CITY BUILDING PUBLICATION

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'ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Among Our Folks

Miss Katherine Krieg, who served as assistant to Miss Margaret McKee, former superintendent of recreation in Des Moines, Iowa, has been appointed as Miss McKee's successor.

Jeanne Barnes, a graduate of the National Recreation School, began work as director of recreation at Morgantown, West Virginia. This position was formerly held by Alice Beil Van Landingham.

More Playgrounds for Minnesota.—The Department of Minnesota (American Legion) has launched a state-wide drive urging every Post in the department to arrange for places for the children of their communities to play. It is believed that the playground program is an activity on which every Post in the city may well concentrate its efforts this year.

A Vacation Bible School in Lancaster.—In Lancaster, Pennsylvania, last summer, the Lancaster Recreation and Playground Association and the St. Peter's Reformed Church cooperated in conducting a Vacation Bible School which held its sessions both at the church and at one of the public playgrounds. The school was open to all children between the ages of four and twelve and was conducted five days a week from 9:00 to 11:30 A. M. during the month of July. At certain periods the children from the Bible School joined the children at a playground which is nearby and took part in the program.

A Memorial Playground for Springfield.—In Springfield, Massachusetts, \$58,000 has been made available from the surplus war bonus funds for the purpose of acquiring land for a public play area as a permanent memorial to the soldiers, sailors and marines who served this country in war. A tract containing approximately 120 acres was purchased for this amount, the low price being made possible because of the civic pride and interest of the owners. It was decided to build the city's second municipal golf course on this area. Nathan C. Bill, who has done so much to further the recreation movement in Springfield, contributed \$10,000 toward the construction of the course; other interested citizens gave \$11,970, and the city government appropriated \$40,000 for the development of the tract.

During the year 1930 a tract of 10.46 acres with a lake on it was presented to the City of Springfield.

field by Arthur E. Littlefield, May G. Stephenson, and George L. Stephenson.

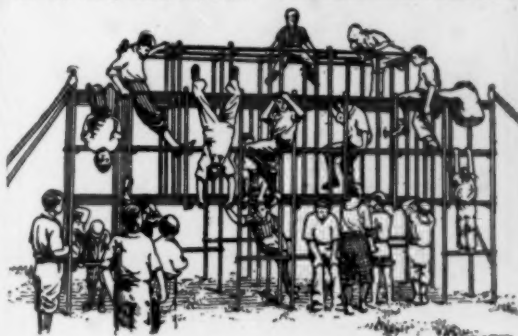
An Active Organization.—The Industrial Mutual Association of Flint, Michigan, is composed of 30,000 members who are employees of the General Motors units in Flint. The organization provides a welfare program, an insurance plan, and a recreation program, but recreation is the chief interest. Six floors of club rooms, a \$1,250,000 auditorium, a 400-acre summer resort, and an athletic stadium are among the facilities provided. A camera club is the latest addition to the program. The director of photography for one of the largest automobile factories, whose plant is located in Flint, has been secured as counsellor, and some very interesting work has been the result. In less than two weeks the membership in the new club increased from twelve to more than fifty.

Interest in Recreation Games.—At a recent meeting of the Mississippi Branch of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers there were 33 general subjects on the program, 15 having to do with leisure time and recreation. In addition there were three recreation and play periods. This illustrates the extent to which discussions with reference to leisure and recreation are being received at the present time throughout the country.

Recreation Department and Juvenile Court Work Together.—In Dallas, Texas, a plan of cooperation between the local recreation department and the juvenile court is in operation. Each month the recreation department receives a list of juvenile court cases to which special attention are given. It has been possible to give a great deal of assistance in many of these instances because frequently the delinquent is a son or daughter of a member of one of the mothers' clubs connected with each playground. In such cases the mother and the recreation leader in charge of the playground confer with the Juvenile Protective Committee composed of two or three of the neighbors at each of the playgrounds. Boys or girls on probation are largely in the hands of the recreation worker and the Juvenile Protective Committee who report to the court. There are a number of interesting instances of the lessening of gangs and leaders of undesirable boys' groups to such an extent that they cease to be trouble-makers.

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"Jungle-gym" Trade Mark Registered United States Patent Office



This No. 2 Jungle-gym capable of handling 75 children.

HOW PLAYGROUND PROBLEMS ARE BEING PERMANENTLY SOLVED WITH JUNGLEGYM

Children are not like older persons. They instinctively like or dislike a thing and no amount of words can convince them otherwise.

That is one reason why the Jungle-gym has proven so successful in playgrounds. It appeals to the deep-rooted instincts of children to climb and play in groups. They never seem to tire of playing on it, because all sorts of games can be discovered or made up on the instant. A splendid exerciser, both physically and mentally.

But there are other features equally as important. Having, as it does, graduated bars always near at hand it is absolutely safe and requires no supervision. Permanently made of metal and compactly built to economize on space.

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bags anywhere, for
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complete information*

RUBIEN CONSTRUCTION CO.
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*Specialists in the Construction of Tennis Courts,
Playgrounds and Athletic Fields.*

A New Public Bath House for Los Angeles.—The Playground and Recreation Commission has approved preliminary designs for a new public bath house at Cabrillo Beach, San Pedro, which will be an attractive two-story structure giving the appearance of a Spanish light-house. It will accommodate 4,000 bathers. The second floor of the bath house will consist of a large community hall for dancing and other social activities, and there will be special sun bath rooms for men and women, a restaurant, and similar features.

For the Pre-School Child.—The Recreation Department of San Antonio, Texas, has conducted some interesting work for the pre-school child on seven playgrounds during the school year. Leadership is provided largely by volunteers from the mothers' councils, one of which has been organized on each playground. There is a mothers' and children's dramatic club at each ground and in addition the children are taught singing, storytelling, and certain physical activities such as correct breathing and posture. There are contests in sand modeling but a minimum of

emphasis on regular school kindergarten work. The recreation director at each playground is in general charge of the work. Children from four to six years of age are admitted and there are about thirty children on each playground, for whom the program is conducted from 9:15 until noon. The program is not in operation during the summer playground season. This work is particularly important in Waco because so many of the mill workers are unable to provide for their young children while they are at work.

In Parsons, Kansas, pre-school groups use the school playgrounds during the summer for a short time in the morning before the older groups arrive. As soon as the older children come on the grounds, the other children return home. Kindergarten teachers in the public schools have charge of the pre-school groups.

A Tournament of Arts and Crafts.—During April, the Richmond, Virginia, Academy of Arts and Crafts, established in 1786, conducted its first tournament of arts and crafts. Miss Claire McCarthy, director of the Community Recreation Association, served as secretary of the Executive Committee of the tournament. For outstanding achievement in the tournament the Academy conferred the highest honor for attainment in Richmond for the year 1931 in art, true crafts, interior decoration, decorative arts, photography, graphic arts, architecture, literature, music, drama, and dancing.

West Chicago Parks Hold Art and Crafts Exhibit.—More than 11,000 articles made by the boys, girls, and adult groups in the handcraft classes conducted by the Chicago West Park Commissioners, were on exhibit at the various parks from May 1st to May 11th inclusive. Among the articles shown were basketry, dresses, lamp shades, cushions, stencils, posters, bead work, model airplanes, doll houses, soap and clay modeling, wood carving, whittling, dolls, bird houses, and boats.

Happenings at Oglebay Park.—The fourth Nature Training School to be held at Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia, opened on June 8th. On June 22nd the school moved to a camp in West Virginia's higher mountains where a five day session was held.

The opening event of the summer's program at the park was the Easter sunrise services attended by 1,500 people. A vested choir of 40

musicians and a brass sextet provided the music. The state legislature has given recognition to the Oglebay Park program by appropriating \$5,000 a year for the next two years for cooperation with Oglebay Park.

Archery Popular.—The nine hole archery golf course established by the Department of Public Recreation of Miami Beach, Florida, attracted many players every day. An archery range provided excellent sport for those enthusiasts who wish to perfect their aim with the targets. Two full blooded Indians of the Penobscot tribe gave free classes of instruction twice a week and equipment for these classes was furnished by the Department. Private lessons were also given and bows and arrows were rented to those wishing to play the golf course or practise on the target range.

With balloons as their targets, members of the Westchester County, New York, Archery Association held their first indoor tournament at the County Center in White Plains in April. Each time an archer broke a balloon he had the privilege of drawing a prize from a grab bag. The archers hitting the largest number of balloons were awarded silver cups. This novel archery shoot created much interest.

A Golf Course in a Small Community.—Ten or fifteen years ago Allen Walden, a lumberman and resident of Corydon, Iowa, bequeathed part of his estate to the town designating that a certain share of it should be used to purchase a park for the city. The executor of the estate purchased a 40-acre tract adjoining the town which fifty years ago had been laid out as a park. A nine hole golf course was built on the property which utilized practically the entire 40 acres and is located in and around the tennis courts, keeper's home, bathing pool, and other recreation facilities. The course is 2,600 yards in length, par 29, bogey 37. Heretofore the upkeep of the park, which is under the supervision of a park commission of three members, has been met through an authorized 2 mill levy by taxation. This levy has fallen short so that the town people who play golf, about 50 in number, have agreed among themselves to contribute \$5 each per year for the purpose of taking care of the blue grass greens which are particularly fine. Any one may play free of charge at any time. To raise money for making improvements to the course, last year

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signs were put up requesting that individuals playing golf and not contributing to the upkeep of the park pay 50 cents a day. As the course is the only golf course in the county, many people from other towns use it and they were very glad to contribute to the upkeep of the course.

"There has been a coordinate development of high incomes and greater dissatisfaction with life; of high material standards of living and higher rates for suicide and insanity and minor forms of mental disorders; of greater measures for the protection of mothers and children along with race suicide in modern American cities; of finer churches along with increasing disbelief in God or the tenets of historical Christianity. These discordances can only be explained if we admit that urban America has passed the point of greatest efficiency in material standards of living; that the attention she is paying to things to live with have made her forget the things necessary to live by."
—Professor Carle C. Zimmerman in *Rural America*, May, 1930.

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Music in Community Centers

(Continued from page 380)

interest and develop promising individuals to be leaders of their groups, in so far as this can be done without impairing the progress or delight of the groups. "Institutes" in music-leading, followed by actual leading under gradually lessening guidance by the instructor, is the usual method.

Recreational Dramatics

(Continued from page 382)

Publishing Company, 542 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois. 50c.

Stunts for Summer by Flora M. Frick. A valuable handbook for the camp director or anyone in charge of picnics or outdoor activities. The Dramatic Publishing Company, 542 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois. 50c.

Stunt Plays by Owen Kelley. A little more than stunts but simpler than one-act plays are these 15 "stunt plays," including comedy, tragedy, and pathos. Old Town Publishers, P. O. Box 323, Madison Square Station, New York City. 75c.

Stunts of All Lands by Catherine A. Miller. Another useful collection. These borrow their character from different nationalities. Richard Smith, 12 East 41st Street, New York City. \$1.50.

All plays listed may be purchased from the Drama Book Shop, 29 West 47th Street, New York City. Please order from publisher or book shop.

Note: It is suggested that community center directors wishing lists of long plays or information on conducting drama tournaments communicate with the Community Drama Service of the N. R. A., which will be glad to provide lists and to be of all assistance possible.

Spooks' Trysting Place

(Continued from page 385)

paint on the sheet below produces the effect of blood. If the victim is a girl, her hair is gathered up and fastened to the rod above with a ribbon. Her face is powdered and her eyes with a dash of lead color beneath them are kept closed.

After all these awesome happenings at Spooks' Trysting Place the guests will need relief from

the strain of so many horrors before bidding each other goodnight. What could be more welcome or more appropriate than one of the greatest of all ghost stories! "Dey Ain't No Ghost," by Ellis Parker Butler in "Best Ghost Stories." This book can be found in most public libraries or may be purchased directly from the publishers, Modern Library, Inc., 20 East 57th Street, New York City, price \$1.00 postpaid.

A Kickball League

(Continued from page 388)

A player must have played or have been in uniform ready to play in at least half of the scheduled games in order to be eligible to play in the finals.

Uniform

Uniform will be bloomers and middy.

Any uniform will be censored by the Athletic Committee of the Department of Recreation.

Officials

Competent officials will be in charge of all games. Each team will be required to provide a score-keeper; otherwise they must be willing to accept the report of persons assigned by the umpires as official.

Score cards will be furnished.

Protests

Protests must be in writing to Miss Erley within forty-eight hours. A fee of \$2.00 must accompany the protest. This fee will be returned to the team if the protest is won; if lost, it will be retained in the treasury.

Official Rules

City of Detroit, Department of Recreation Kickball Rules revised for 1931 will be the official rules for all games played in the League.

Athletic Programs for Young Men

(Continued from page 389)

drawing up and sending out of schedules, the filing and checking of team registrations and the resulting incidental clerical work demands a fairly competent clerical staff. Its efficiency quickly reflects itself in the respect of teams for the league organizations.

Our supervisors of games between these organized teams are the officials who are paid to handle each individual game. They are always either

(Continued on page 410)

Magazines and Pamphlets

Recently Received Containing Articles of Interest to the Recreation Worker

MAGAZINES

American Childhood, June 1931

The Family Center Summer Play School, by Lucy Retting
Story-Telling on Wheels, by Helen E. Benson
Our Playhouse Moved Outdoors
Projects for the Active Vacation Child

The American City, July 1931

Milwaukee Playgrounds, 1923-1940, by Elmer Krieger
Nation's Recreation Expenditure Increased \$5,000,000 during 1930
Ought Cities To Buy Block-Interiors for Public Playgrounds?
A Park in a Ravine—Cleveland, Ohio
Olympic Athletes Will Swim in Pure Water
Davenport's New Municipal Stadium
Community Singing in Fond Du Lac

The American City, August 1931

An Unusual Recreation Park at Northampton, Mass., by Robert Washburn Beal
Birmingham Park System Gains through Unemployment Programs
Park Development Through Citizen Cooperation—Price, Utah
Old-Timers of Oak Park Play on Huge Outdoor Checkerboard

Child Study

The June 1931 issue of this magazine is devoted to competition. Some very interesting and illuminating discussions are included.

Child Welfare, June 1931

The Sand Box, by Olivia Liebheit Ure
A Lath Playhouse, by William Alphonso Murrill
The Story Hour for Children, by Randall J. Condon
Vacation Program for Boys, by Roscoe Pulliam
A Toy Orchestra as a Vacation Project, by J. Lilian Vandevere

Child Welfare, September 1931

Training for Leisure Through Elementary School Clubs, by Ruth B. Hall

Hygeia, July 1931

Child Leisure—A Modern Problem, by Ruth L. Frankel
A Hiking Holiday, by Walter S. Chansler

Hygeia, September 1931

Hobbies, by H. F. Kilander

The Journal of Health and Physical Education, June 1931

The Place of Varsity Athletics in a Program of "Athletics for All," by Fielding H. Yost
Some Essentials in Playground Planning, by Ernst Hermann
Dancing Has Its Place in the Physical Education Program, by Janice Kent
Archery Tournaments, by Philip Rounseville
The Organized Recess Period, by Oscar P. Loeven-guth
Water Games for Class, Club or Camp, by Lucy South Proudfoot

The Municipality, June 1931

Construction of Municipal Golf Course Relieves Unemployment problem for Superior

Parks and Recreation, July 1931

- California Park Commission Saves Redwoods in Bull Creek Flat
- Landscape Setting Makes Pool Attractive, by Robert Washburn Beal
- Marine Parks in New York City
- Keller Golf Course at St. Paul, by Tom Hastings
- An Interview on Public Golf Courses
- A Short History of the Public Golf Associations of Minnesota
- Baseball and Its Variations
- A New Medium for Art Expression, by V. K. Brown

Parks and Recreation, August 1931

- Camp Ovens and Oven Shelters, by Paul B. Riis
- Tulsa's Airport as a Park, by C. W. Short, Jr.
- Industrial Recreation, by Minnette Brodke Spector
- Old-Timers Play on Huge Outdoor Checkerboard, by Norman Beggs
- Roque and Lawn Bowling

Scouting, July 1931

"Let's Give a Play"

The Survey, July 15, 1931

The Meek Inherit the Mirth

PAMPHLETS

Report of the Board of Public Recreation—Fort Myers, Florida 1931

Celebrating a 300th Anniversary—Massachusetts Bay Tercentenary

1930 With the Houston Recreation Department

Sixth Annual Report 1930-31 of the Department of Recreation, Hamtramck, Michigan

Suggested Activities for Supervised Playgrounds
Prepared by the Education Division—National Safety Council

Standards of Play and Recreation Administration
Report of the Committee on Play and Recreation Administration of the National Municipal League.
Prepared by Professor Jay B. Nash.
Published by the National Municipal League
261 Broadway, New York City
25¢ per copy

Twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Board of Park Commissioners of Peoria, Illinois, 1930

United States Publications on Education, Office of Education 1931, United States Department of the Interior.

Annual Report of the Department of Public Recreation, Miami Beach, Florida, 1930

Ethics of the Teaching Profession, Kansas City School Service Bulletin, March 1931

Municipal Activities, 1930—Cincinnati, Ohio

(Continued from page 409)

college players or men who have some established prestige in the sport in which they officiate. Their compensation has been \$1 for baseball games; \$5 for an evening of three basketball games; \$5 for football games; and \$3 for a hockey game.

As far as results are concerned, we have, I presume, mainly provided this age group with something to do and think about. An organization of this kind more than doubles their playing time and the self-restraint and playing standard which is required of the teams who play in our leagues is, of course, a valuable training.

National Recreation Day

(Continued from page 392)

Editors Approve

Typical of the editorial comment on the anniversary celebrations are the following:

Battle Creek, Michigan, *Enquirer News*: "What Mr. Hoover had to say is echoed in thousands of hearts. Here in Battle Creek, where in Dr. John Harvey Kellogg we have a director of the national association, we daily see the benefits of organized play. Battle Creek's playgrounds are approaching the close of their most successful summer season.

"And, while we watch the nation and the world going to the bow-wows, as our best critics assert, we can find with Mr. Hoover a little glint of silver in the cloud's lining as we contemplate millions of children who are finding health and happiness on the playgrounds of a nation."

Lock Haven, Pa., *Express*: "There are few communities so small but they will be able, by effort and devotion, to provide some means of organized recreation for their children. Every community which has neglected to take up playground work, and which continues to evade that responsibility is depriving its children and young people of one of the greatest present day forces for good."

There is ample evidence that the anniversary programs helped strongly to focus public attention on the basic contributions of organized public recreation to child happiness and welfare.

"You Can Make It"

(Continued from page 399)

it contains. In quantities "You Can Make It," Volume I, sells at \$4.00 a hundred.

Several hundred boys and girls participated in each of the contests, the results of which clearly indicate that the "You Can Make It" program of the National Committee on Wood Utilization is receiving enthusiastic support in various sections of the country.

"Education of our adults is needed now as never before, for in this machine, mass-production age, the life of the worker must be enriched or, in many cases, his spirit will die. We probably can hold the place we now have by schooling children only, but to make real progress we must educate adults."—L. R. Alderman, U. S. Office of Education.

New Books on Recreation

The Recreation Kit, 26

Edited by Katherine and Lynn Rohrbough. Church Recreation Service, Delaware, Ohio. \$.25.

THIS issue of the Pocket Magazine of Social Recreation, which is so widely and favorably known, contains in addition to some social recreation activities the high lights of the fifth social recreation institute held at Walden Woods, Michigan, and the tentative recreation creed, quotations from which appear in connection with Miss Viola P. Armstrong's article on social recreation in the current issue of RECREATION.

Procedures for Character Education

By Harold S. Tuttle and Paul A. Menegat. The Cooperative Book Store, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. \$1.75.

THIS carefully edited collection in mimeographed form of the procedures published in City and State Courses of Study for use in character training shows the rapid development of a movement which, one writer points out, has been under way since 1905. In recent years courses in methods of character education have been introduced into teachers' colleges and schools of education in rapidly increasing numbers. Especially is this true of summer sessions, with the result that teachers are going back to their work each fall stimulated with new interest. Out of this interest on the part of educational leaders, expressed through literature and training courses, there has come the introduction of programs of character education in the schools of the country. Of those school systems which are working out conscious programs looking toward character building only a comparative few ever put their results into printed form available for the use of other schools. The compilers of this book have, therefore, performed a valuable service in bringing together this collection of available material.

The Fun-Craft Book

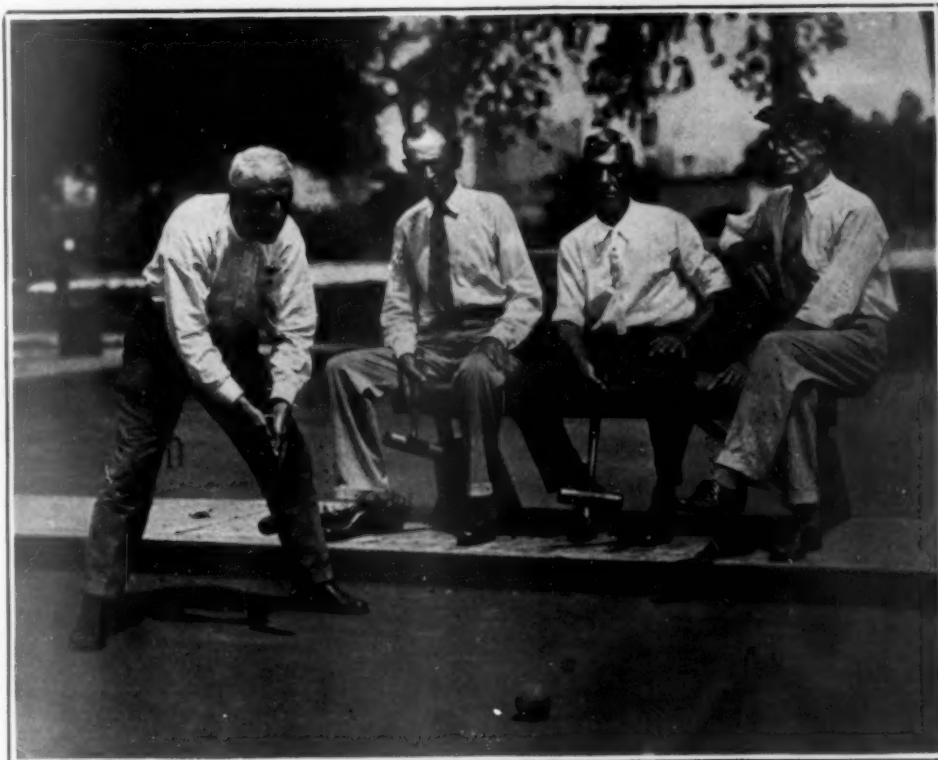
By Rachel Taft Dixon and Marjorie Hartwell. Rand McNally and Company, New York. \$1.00.

THINGS made from paper and pasteboard, beads, weaving with yarn and strips of cloth, block printing and stenciling and match-box treasures fill the pages of this attractively illustrated book, which tells what to do with scissors and paste.

Municipal Auditoriums

By Edna Trull. Municipal Administration Service, 261 Broadway, New York City. \$.35.

THIS study presents and analyzes the basic physical and financial data concerning auditoriums in more than one hundred cities, stressing the practical problems of administration with which auditorium managements are concerned. Among the subjects considered from the experience of these cities are those of legal authority, form of management and control, general financial policies, the fixing of rates, the utilization of auditoriums and their relation to the city plan. Special emphasis is placed on the fact that the value of a municipal auditorium is determined not so much by the financial results as by the degree to which public-spirited management has made it a useful center of community activity.



"THE 'EVERYBODY SING' BOOK." Edited by Kenneth S. Clark, Paull-Pioneer Music Company, New York, 1931, price 25 cents a copy.

Very few persons, if any, have had so wide and rich an experience as Mr. Clark in cultivating musical activities among all sorts of people. Consequently the new song book compiled and edited by him is likely to be very effective and valuable. This book is plainly designed for the singing of the great masses of people, though it contains a good many choral arrangements of folk songs that will please even the most cultivated music lovers. The book contains 177 selections for almost all of which piano accompaniments are given. "Sing for the joy of singing" is the slogan appearing on the front cover and the editor has evidently kept this idea in mind throughout his work. First comes the mixed voice section including many of the traditional favorites in community singing, without which no song book would be complete. The second section carries out an idea new to community song books, for it consists of a set of arrangements by Mr. Clark which are interchangeable as to their use by male or mixed voices, and yet are in keys making the songs suitable for unison singing. This is an especially valuable idea that works out perfectly. Let your "barber shop" quartets and glee clubs, as well as mixed choruses, enjoy the 50 songs of this section. A special section of hymns and carols comes third. The fourth section is given over to stunt songs and to greetings which are used as salutations to visitors on special occasions. Then comes a unison section consisting mostly of the so-called popular songs of recent decades in our country. Finally, there is a supplementary section consisting of the text of a number of songs, most of them favorites of recent years. Throughout the book there is a scattering of "rounds," all of them capable of giving pleasure to any group who can sing, no matter how modest their skill.

The book is said to be a real American collection and since it contains not only many of our popular songs of the past but also a large number of native cowboy and sea songs and mountain ballads and Negro spirituals, it truly is the first song book of its kind that is entirely American except for a few folk songs like *Auld Lang Syne* and *O Sole Mio*, which have become so popular among all or a large part of our people that they may be regarded also as American.

Some people will regard the collection as a whole as containing much music that is too sweet, sentimental, or inane to be indulged in happily for any length of time if at all; and they will wonder perhaps whether any number of people can enjoy those of the old, quite forgotten popular songs whose tunes are very trite and whose umpah accompaniments are more so. The radio has done so much to raise our standards of taste even in popular songs, as is shown by the striking advance in rhythm, harmony and often in counterpoint reached in many of the popular songs of the day. At the same time a large proportion of the millions of children now in school are having musical experiences that are, we hope, even more telling than those provided by the radio and a more admirable Tin Pan Alley. One would suppose that all this growth would make some of the songs in this book seem much less vital and delightful than the great abundance of simple but fine and lastingly gripping music now available almost everywhere. However, the book is to be heartily welcomed and should be given the largest possible opportunity to prove itself.

A. D. ZANZIG.

THE CAMP LIBRARY. For Use of Welfare Camps. Compiled by Elsa H. Naumburg for the United Neighborhood Houses and issued by The Children's Welfare Federation, 244 Madison Avenue, New York City. \$1.00.

"What shall they read at camp?" The answer is found in this compilation of books on fiction, adventure, mystery, romance, sports and humor, arranged according to their use for various age groups. There is also a list of stories to tell.

BUSINESS GIRLS—A STUDY OF THEIR INTERESTS AND PROBLEMS. The Religious Education Association, Chicago, Illinois. \$1.00.

This book gives the results of a study made by The Religious Education Association in cooperation with the National Board of the Y. W. C. A. and a number of local Y. W. C. A. groups. The Chicago Collegiate Bureau of Occupations and the Central Branch of the Chicago Y. W. C. A. permitted the use of their records, and several hundred business girls wrote tests, gave interviews, and in some cases wrote the story of their experiences. The report gives a picture of the office worker, a general survey of her interests and problems, information regarding home and family life; intellectual abilities and interests and friends and vocational problems. The girl and her money, the girl and the church, and undeveloped personalities are discussed. A valuable section of the report is that giving a bibliography.

The girls were asked to tell of their recreational interests. Travel was the most commonly checked item on the list of interests; 89.4 per cent of the girls wanted to travel, and the replies showed a marked interest in new experiences. Eighty per cent of the girls mentioned some very active recreation as a hobby, such as athletics, boating, dancing; 39 per cent indicated study, reading or writing as a hobby, while 27 per cent mentioned some form of art, music or dramatics.

MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSES IN THE UNITED STATES (WITH STATISTICAL INFORMATION). Public Links Section, United States Golf Association, 110 East 42nd Street, New York. Free.

In this new pamphlet the United States Golf Association has brought up to date its valuable directory of existing courses, giving information about the size, charges, the cost of operation, whether self-maintaining or not, and names of governing authorities and professional in charge. According to the list, which has been made as complete as possible, 191 cities are conducting 291 municipal golf courses.

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